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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief Urges Lifting Iraq Blockade

JN1809140191 Baghdad INA in English 1250 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 18, INA—The General Secretariat of the Arab League (AL) expressed deep concern over the deteriorating health situation and the hard living conditions in Iraq as a result of the continuing economic blockade.

In a message addressed to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, (AL) Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said this situation began to leave tragic effects on the people of Iraq, especially the children and the poor.

He stressed the necessity of ending the sufferings of the people of Iraq to avert inevitable catastrophes.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid was confident that the secretary general would exert every possible effort in cooperation with the Security Council to solve this grave problem.

PLO Official Meets Arab League's 'Abd-al-Majid

NC1809141891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 18 Sep (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid conferred today with a Palestinian delegation led by PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin.

After the session, 'Abbas said that they discussed the peace efforts and the Arab League council's resolutions, placing particular emphasis on the five-way meeting among the frontline Arab states concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Palestinian official added that, in accordance with the Arab League council's decision, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid will meet with the five Arab foreign ministers in New York to coordinate their positions.

'Abbas said he did not have any information on Secretary of State James Baker's talks with the Palestinian delegation in Jerusalem, adding that the delegation had left Jerusalem for Tunis. He pointed out that the Palestinian delegation emanded several guarantees from Baker: that Israel would stop building settlements after the peace conference begins; that the Israeli occupation would be ended; that the Palestinian people's right to self-determination would be ensured; and that the occupied territories would be considered to include all territories, including Jerusalem.

Answering another question, the Palestinian official said that the dialogue with the Hamas movement is continuing and added: We welcome Hamas' participation at the Algiers meetings of the Palestine National Council.

GCC Official, USSR Envoy View Economic Ties

LD1809115991 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1108 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Riyadh, 18 Sep (SPA)—Dr. 'Abdullah al-Quayz, GCC assistant secretary general for economic affairs, conferred today with Soviet Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Gennadiy Tarasov. They discussed economic relations between the GCC countries and the Soviet Union, and the means to develop them. During the meeting the ambassador expressed the wish of the Soviet producing sectors to export their products to the GCC countries. He also expressed the Soviet welcome of GCC investments.

Palestinian Affairs

MENA Cites Baker Memo to Palestinians

NC1809144991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Tunis, 18 Sep (MENA)—Arab and foreign diplomatic sources affirmed to our Tunis correspondent that the memorandum of understanding that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker conveyed to the Palestinian delegation when he met with them in Jerusalem on 16 September consists of 10 points. These points focus on achieving a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the substance of the peace conference, and Palestinian representation at that conference. The sources said that Baker expects responses to the memorandum, which can be amended, from the Palestinians, Syrians, and Jordanians. Palestinian sources expect that the PLO will define its position on participation in the peace conference only after the Palestine National Council makes its decision when it convenes next Monday to discuss the Palestinian stance on the current political efforts.

The 10 points included in the memorandum of understanding that Secretary Baker conveyed to the Palestinian delegation are as follows:

1. The peace process's primary goal is to reach a comprehensive settlement to the conflict in the Middle East on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

2. The peace process will have two approaches: direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab countries and between Israel and the Palestinians.

3. In preparation for these negotiations, a conference will be convened under the supervision of the Soviet Union and the United States to initiate direct bilateral and multilateral negotiations among the various parties with the aim of addressing major regional problems, such as: the monitoring of arms proliferation, regional security, the environment, water, the economy, refugee problems, and other issues of common concern.

4. The United States and the Soviet Union are to chair the conference, which will be held on a ministerial or senior governmental level. Invitations to the conference will be sent to the following participants: Egypt, Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine. The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] agreed to send its secretary general to the conference as an observer. The conference will not have the power to impose solutions on any party, to veto agreements achieved among the participants, to make decisions on any side's behalf, or to vote on any issue or result.

5. Bilateral talks are to begin within two days of the opening of the conference.

6. The two countries sponsoring the conference prefer that a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation be formed to participate in the bilateral working team with Israel. The working teams are to conduct direct negotiations in stages, beginning with talks on the phased settlement of autonomous rule [al-taswiyah al-marhaliyah li al-hukm al-dhati], which will last for five years. In the third of the five transitional years, negotiations will be held to define the territories' final status, in other words, to reach the final solution. Talks concerning the phased settlement of autonomous rule should reach an agreement within a year.

7. While the Palestinians should have the final say in selecting their representatives, the Palestinian part of the joint delegation with Jordan should be composed of Palestinians from the territories—the occupied land—who agree to the bilateral negotiating process as well as the multiphased talks and who are committed to peaceful coexistence with Israel.

8. The two countries sponsoring the conference understand that no party, including Israel, will be forced to sit with any person it does not wish to sit with.

9. The negotiations within the multilateral working teams will begin within two weeks of the opening of the conference. The GCC countries agreed to participate in the multilateral teams.

10. If one or more of those who have been invited to participate in the conference do not wish to attend, the conference should be held with the participation of the remaining parties who received invitations and agreed to participate.

Qaddumi 'Not Optimistic' on Peace Conference

NC1909104691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0951 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 19 Sep (MENA)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, said that he is not optimistic on the prospects of a Middle East peace conference being held, blaming Israel's intransigence and continued attempts to impose its conditions and demands prior to the conference. Qaddumi called on the United States to pressure Israel to make it heed the calls for peace.

In statements to today's issue of the Cairo-based newspaper AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I, Qaddumi said that Arabs, particularly the Palestinians, made all kinds of concessions to bring peace to the region and help efforts aimed at resolving the Middle East crisis, whereas Israel has not made any positive initiatives.

The Palestinian official described Egyptian-Palestinian relations as good, saying that coordination and consultation between Cairo and the PLO exists on all matters concerning the search for a political settlement.

Qaddumi praised Egypt's efforts to bring peace to the region as well as the endeavors of Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to heal the Arab rift.

Qaddumi added that recent developments in the Soviet Union will have a negative impact on the peace process and diminish the possibility of holding it as scheduled.

PFLP Split From PLO Possible; Depends on PNC

PM1809153891 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Sep 91 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "As Algiers Palestine National Council Session Approches, Popular Front Threatens To Withdraw From PLO and Hamas Sticks To its Conditions"]

[Excerpt] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The date of the Palestine National Council [PNC] scheduled for next Monday is approaching and still no progress has been achieved regarding some Palestinian forces' participation in the session. Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is still refusing to participate for political and procedural reasons. And the dialogue between the Executive Committee and the [Palestine National] Salvation Front—some of whose factions split from the PLO since the 16th session—has not taken place, so its attendance at the council session is ruled out.

What is more important is that the coming session may witness political differences over the peace process, which could lead to disputes within the PLO.

According to informed Palestinian sources, the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] [PFLP] Politburo, under George Habash, voted recently for withdrawal from the PLO if the PNC decides to send a joint or independent Palestinian delegation to the peace conference scheduled for next month.

The PFLP is the number two group in the PLO after Fatah, and its role has grown since the split in the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine], which represented the third power in the PLO.

PFLP leader George Habash conditionally agreed during the 1988 PNC session to accept Security Council Resolution 242 which recognizes Israel. The condition was that the PLO abandon the peaceful road if it proves futile in two years.

The PFLP demands the reactivation of armed resistance against Israel. Last month it issued a joint statement to that effect with Hamas in the occupied territories. And the PFLP agrees with Hamas on rejecting the meetings taking place in the occupied territories between Palestinian figures and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Palestinian sources say that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is not hoping to obtain unanimity at the upcoming PNC session in support of the decision to participate in the peace conference. However, he certainly hopes to obtain majority support. But the PFLP's threat to pull out of the PLO—as it has in the past—will greatly affect the Palestinian position, especially because of Hamas' and the Salvation Front's nonattendance at the council session. [passage omitted]

Speaker Says Abu-Lughod, Said Resign From PNC

JN1809154091 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] In Amman, Palestine National Council Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih declared that two prominent PNC members, Ibrahim Abu-Lughod and Edward Said, have submitted their resignations from membership in the council.

He pointed that their reasons are personal and are justified, and that they are not political. Meanwhile, Edward Said has said that he made this decision for health reasons, and to allow room for new generations. It is known that Abu-Lughod and Sa'id hold U.S. citizenship, and are university professors who reside in the United States.

Bush Stance on Aid 'Meets Israeli Challenge'

PM1909095691 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 14-15 Sep 91 p11

[Editorial: "President Bush's Veto"]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush's threat to veto any congressional decision on the question of the $10 million settlement aid for Israel was a necessary step to forestall some of the Jewish lobby symbols who have begun to act in an attempt to override White House authority.

The members of that lobby imagined that they were stronger than any U.S. President because of their control of Congress and of the influential media in New York and Washington. In the past they were successful in more than one confrontation with the White House and were able to bring down congressmen who tried to break free of their control. Paul Findley's case is the best example.

By defying that lobby and threatening to use his right to veto, Bush was in fact meeting an Israeli challenge. Secretary of State Baker asked Yitzhaq Shamir to postpone the application to Congress for loan guarantees until after the peace conference, and he offered urgent financial aid as a compensation for that, but Shamir adamantly refused and ordered his ambassador in Washington to submit the loan request to Congress.

That was not Shamir's first defiance of the White House. He also broke his promise to President Bush to freeze the building of settlements. He announced the construction of a new settlement every time Baker arrived in occupied Palestine in the course of his peace efforts.

The Zionist pressure groups in Congress will certainly try to find new ways of tackling the Bush threat. Israel, which is the driving force behind these groups, wants to increase the settlements, not freeze them. It does not accept the land-for-peace principle on which the peace conference, for which Washington is currently preparing, will be based. It is not unlikely to use the attendance-nonattendance card to put pressure on the U.S. Administration.

However, President Bush will still be in a stronger postion because of his Gulf war successes, the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union, the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Cuba, and the agreement to suspend arms supplies to the warring factions in Afghanistan. His record is better than that of any other president for the past 50 years, and his popularity exceeded all expectations. The Zionist lobby's threats and Shamir's defiance could make him even more determined in his current stands.

By threatening to veto any congressional decision on aid to Israel, Bush is actually doing himself a service and saving the reputation of the president of the world's biggest superpower. A congressional approval of this aid to Israel would not result in a suspension of the Israeli settlements or in Israeli concessions at the peace conference. By taking that step, he saved the peace conference, or at least ensured that it would convene, and gave it some chance of success; because how was he to convince the Arabs that he was serious in his peace efforts if he did not make that threat, which is still much less than what is expected of him as President of the United States and sponsor of peace in the region?

Evolution of U.S.-Israeli Relations Examined

PM1809110691 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 16 Sep 91 p 1

['Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan article: "Counter 'Storm?'"]

[Text] The word "linkage" is used these days more than any other word in the political vocabulary of the Middle East region. Since the Gulf crisis this word has become the axis of all parties' positions, whether rejected or accepted.

Israel, which refused to link its withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories to the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, is now rejecting any U.S. linkage between the loan guarantees—requested for Jewish emigration and which President Bush has asked to be deferred—and the peace process in the region.

And the Gulf states, which formed a front opposed to the same "linkage," are now "linking"—in all their dealings—the positions of the Arab states (Yemen, Sudan, palestine, Jordan, and Algeria) during the crisis to any economic or diplomatic dealings with them.

The Gulf states, the United States, and all the Western states, which all refused to "link" the Iraqi regime with the Iraqi people and which have always emphasized that two are separate, are now exercising the "linkage" effectively and looking for excuses to continue the starvation siege which is killing Iraq's children and sick people. And some of some are fabricating imaginary battles in order to perpetuate it.

Amid this controversy over "linkage" and "separation" U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrives in the Arab region on a tour of new endeavors which could be the last one, in preparation for convening a peace conference to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict, which is now the only chronic conflict in the world, since all other issues and conflicts have been settled in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Baker's seventh tour is definitely different from all his previous tours. This is the first time a U.S. president has ever been exposed to the attacks which the present U.S. president, George Bush, is being exposed. This, inasmuch as he has been accused of anti-Semitism by ministers of an Israeli Government which owes its survival and that of its country to U.S. aid. Bush's position in the Israeli press is now similar to the late al-Sadat's position in the Arab press following his sinister visit to occupied Jerusalem.

The Israelis feel that Bush—after he humiliated the Arabs, or most of them, in the Gulf war and after he broke the back of the rejectionists among them—is now moving toward them to seek endorsement of his peace proposals, which are in any case a blueprint of what Israel has been demanding for 40 years, ever since its establishment, namely, the Arabs' recognition of the legitimacy of its existence, direct negotiation with it, and the abolition of the Palestinian people's political identity by not establishing an independent Palestinian state.

It is still not known whether the war of words now being launched against Bush will remain within that context or whether it will extend to Congress and the White House, since such an extension would be a "desert storm" fiercer and more important at the economic and political levels.

This, because the Israeli lobby "terrified" all U.S. presidents of the past 40 years and become so strong that any state wanting to move closer to the White House and to enjoy its care and loans had to obtain Israel approval first, and its leaders have had to go to Washington with their requests made via the Zionist. Not a single Third World leader visited Washington seeking aid before visiting Israel or passing through New York. This is what all the Eastern European states and their new leaders have done. The same applies to President Gorbachev, when he opened the door wide to Jewish emigration on the pretext of granting freedoms.

It seems that the time has come to eliminate this black spot which has alarmed Washington and its guests and poisoned its relations with all the Arab states in past years. The Zionist lobby always obstructed any true friendship between the Arabs and the Americans, because it placed Israel's interests above the American people's real interests. For this reason, according to the latest opinion poll, 80 percent of the Americans supported Bush's decision to "link" the loans to progress in the peace process, whereas 52 percent of them supported the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Bush's continuation of his battle against the Zionist lobby serves not the Arabs, but Israel itself. This, because the proposed peace comes in response to Israeli conditions. This, at a time when Israel's strategic importance is declining after the end of the Cold War and when the United States is becoming the world's only superpower.

The victory of "Desert Storm" will remain incomplete if it is not completed by breaking the Zionist lobby's back once and for all; otherwise the peace conference will not be held; and even if it is held, it will not succeed; and even if it does succeed, it will produce not peace but temporary truce; otherwise the October [1973] war would be the last war, as al-Sadat predicted.

Algeria

Security Forces Arrest Ennahda Spokesman

LD1409123191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Tunisian security forces yesterday arrested the acting official spokesman of the Tunisian Ennahda Party at Bizerte, Habib Ellouze.

Newspaper Edition Seized by Military

LD1709194491 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Edition number 79 of AL-MASER AL-MAGHARIBI in Arabic has not appeared today. According to a communique of the editorial office of this paper that reached our news desk, the edition was seized—I quote—by the military authorities, who appeared at the printing works yesterday evening to seize the template of the paper before printing could go ahead this afternoon, after having presented a confiscation order. The editorial office AL-MASER AL-MAGHARIBI says it does not know the official reasons for this action.

Egypt

Saudi Envoy Meets With Mubarak, Baker

LD1809205291 Riyadh SPA in English 1910 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, Sept 18, SPA—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak received here today Prince Bandar Ibn-Sultan, Saudi ambassador to the United States. Following the meeting, Prince Bandar said he conveyed appreciation of the Egyptian people by custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. In a statement circulated by the MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY (MENA), Prince Bandar said his talks with the Egyptian president dealt with all that concerns the two brotherly states and the Arab and Islamic world.

In an answer to a question regarding the current crisis between America and Israel, Prince Bandar affirmed that decisions of U.S. President George Bush are 'wise,' and help in pushing the peace wheel in the region. Prince Bandar described the American stand as a 'positive one' and said it is a proof of credibility towards peace.

The meeting was attended by Saudi Ambassador to Egypt As'ad Abu-al-Nasr.

Prince Bandar arrived in Cairo earlier today. On arrival, he was greeted by As'ad Abu-al-Nasr and Saudi military attache in Egypt Brigadier 'Abdallah al-Dayil.

Later, Prince Bandar met with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. After the meeting, Prince Bandar said they discussed all that support the peace matter and expressed the Kingdom's appreciation for the great efforts of the United States now in progress to support the peace efforts.

In a statement to the SAUDI PRESS AGENCY, Prince Bandar expressed his belief that a comprehensive and just peace is the natural solution, which should be realised in the Middle East region. "This will serve interests and ambitions of our Palestinian brothers as well as interests of the whole region," he said. He added that Saudi Arabia is keen to ensure continuity of the march of peace to go ahead, and said custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz is keen to push ahead the peace march.

Referring to his meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Prince Bandar said he was honored to meet the president and conveyed to him and the noble Egyptian people greetings and appreciation of the Saudi monarch. He said the meeting dealt with all that concerns interests of the two brotherly states and supports and serves interests of the entire Arab and Islamic nation. Prince Bandar said it is not strange to have continuing contacts to serve the Saudi people, the Egyptian people, the Arab people and the entire Islamic people. The Saudi ambassador said his discussion with President Mubarak covered this aspect and reaffirmed the importance of collective efforts in the present phase to serve the interests of the Arab nation.

He added that the Saudi monarch and the Egyptian president are always keen to support the peace march, which will lead, with God's blessings, to the welfare, stability and growth for the people of our region and other Arab people. "In this framework, we support all efforts that will reach, with God's blessings, to a good outcome to serve the interests of our Palestinian brothers and all our people's," he said. Commenting on the current situation, he said "I have no detailed comments on the matter because we are still on the half-way."

Baker Departs After Meeting With Mubarak

NC1809113591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 18 Sep (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker left Cairo this afternoon after a brief visit to Egypt as part of his seventh tour of the region. During the visit, Baker met with President Husni Mubarak and held a round of talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to discuss the Middle East issue and topics related to the international peace conference expected to be convened in October.

Kuwaiti Amir Arrives for One-Day Visit

NC1809144191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1432 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 18 Sep (MENA)—Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah arrived in Cairo from Salalah

this evening on a one-day visit. President Husni Mubarak led those who received the Kuwaiti amir after his arrival at Cairo airport.

Meets With Mubarak, Praises War Role

NC1909052991 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] President Husni Mubarak hosted a dinner at the al-Qubbah Presidential Palace this evening in honor of Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and his accompanying delegation following a two-hour session of closed discussions.

His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah presented the Kuwaiti sash, first order, to Lieutenant General Salah Halabi, chief of staff of the Armed Forces and commander of the Egyptian forces during the war of liberation of Kuwait. President Mubarak, the Egyptian defense minister, and Kuwaiti court adviser 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Atiqi attended the award ceremony.

Shaykh Jabir made the following speech at the ceremony: To the commander of the Egyptian forces that participated in the liberation of Kuwait upon the instructions of my brother His Excellency President Husni Mubarak, who adopted a courageous position from the very first day that the tyrant of Iraq launched his aggression against Kuwait in an attempt to obliterate the Kuwaiti identity. The Kuwaiti people will not forget the position taken by His Excellency President Husni Mubarak, the dear Egyptian people, and their Armed Forces within the framework of joint cooperation between the two fraternal countries in all fields, and not only the military one. I pray to God to grant us success in all we do.

Joint Communique Issued

NC1909114891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0653 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Cairo, 19 Sep (MENA)—Egypt and Kuwait today issued a joint communique following a visit to Egypt by Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. [passage omitted] Following is the text of the communique:

His Highness Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah expressed the Kuwaiti people's thanks and gratitude for Egypt's role in the liberation of Kuwait, the Egyptian people's support, their backing of a just cause, and the hospitality offered to Kuwaitis in Egypt during the crisis.

Talks during the visit were cordial and covered international, Arab, and bilateral topics of concern to Egypt and Kuwait.

The two countries will continue consultations in accordance with the Damascus Declaration and the Arab League Charter, working together to promote their interests and those of the Arab people.

Both underlined their eagerness to consolidate already strong relations in all fields.

In the Gulf, the Kuwaitis are committed to the principles and goals of the Arab League Charter and the Joint Defense and Economic Cooperation Agreement among Arab countries. They also back the principles and text of the Damascus Declaration.

The talks reviewed bilateral relations and cooperation on security in the region according to Arab goals and agreements.

The Kuwaitis said their latest security accord with the United States does not interfere with Kuwaiti sovereignty but represents a provisional cooperation [ta'awun lahu itar zarfi] standard among sovereign countries.

Concludes Talks, Leaves for Syria

NC1909071891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0624 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 19 Sep (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah held a round of talks at the al-Qubbah Presidential Palace this morning, resuming the discussion begun yesterday on the situation in the Middle East and the future of bilateral relations.

Following the session, President Mubarak accompanied Shaykh Jabir to the Cairo airport from where he departed for Damascus.

Libya's al-Qadhdhafi Telephones Mubarak

NC1909052591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 18 Sep (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received a telephone call from brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, this afternoon. The two leaders discussed current developments in the region.

Mubarak Telephones Saudi Arabia's King Fahd

NC1809140291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1019 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 18 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today telephoned Saudi Arabia's King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. President Mubarak and King Fahd discussed the current Middle East situation in light of the recent developments in the peace process.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Condemns U.S.-Kuwaiti Agreement

LD1809180291 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1620 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Tripoli, 18 Sep (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has made a statement to JANA, the text of which is as follows:

The military agreement Kuwait is about to sign with the United States will harm Kuwait itself as well as Arab security, and will heighten feelings of hostility toward the United States. It will also escalate resistance to its presence everywhere. It follows that the United States will not benefit from this agreement but will inevitably lose, despite Iraq's responsibility for this.

As for Kuwait, despite the ordeal it suffered, through this act it will violate the Arab League charter and the resolutions of the Islamic Conference Organization, the chairmanship of which it currently holds.

The brother leader of the revolution went on to add in his statement to JANA: Kuwait has to understand that U.S. forces did not come to recover Kuwait but only to defend Saudi Arabia. However, after some Arab countries decided to dispatch forces, the United States altered its position, was encouraged, and found an Arab cover for entering Kuwait.

Phones Mubarak on 'Violation'

LD1809180991 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1715 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Tripoli, 18 Sep (JANA)—JANA has learned that a telephone conversation took place between the brother leader of the revolution and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this evening following the arrival of Kuwaiti Amir Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah in Cairo. The conversation concerned Kuwait's violation of the Arab League Charter, a matter which jeopardizes pan-Arab security.

Consultations between the brother leader of the revolution and President Mubarak are continuing.

Jallud Reviews Outcome of Talks in Tunis

PM1809092291 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Sep 91 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: " 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Proposed Agreements and Unitary Steps to Tunisia"]

[Text] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—On the eve of the Maghreb summit and following his talks in Tunis with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Prime Minister Hamed Karoui, Libyan leadership member Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud talked to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT about the most notable issues broached during his visit.

He revealed that Libya suggested to Tunisia that the two countries sign agreements similar to those which Tripoli has signed with Cairo, in addition to taking new unitary steps by increasing economic cooperation and political coordination.

On the results of his meeting with President Ben Ali and senior officials, he said: We proposed to brother officials in Tunisia new unitary steps by raising the level of economic cooperation and political coordination.

We informed the Tunisian brothers that Libya is willing to sign with Tunisia the 10 agreements that it signed with Egypt, starting with the removal of borders and the free movement of individuals, goods, capital, and workers.

On Tunisia's concerns that the liberalization of trade would lead to its markets being flooded by foreign goods, he said: Actually the Tunisian brothers expressed to us several concerns, most notably the Tunisian industrialists' concerns about unequal competition with the goods subsidized in Libya and foreign goods that reach Tunisia via Libya. But we agreed that liberalization be applied only to trade exchanges involving national goods, that is, only to items made in Tunisia and Libya.

What is more important to us is agreement on the principle of liberalizing trade, that is, that the rule should be to open the two countries to all Tunisians and Libyans, inasmuch as they are the sons of a single people. We can also agree on exceptional cases such as preventing the exportation of textiles from Libya to Tunisia out of regard for the circumstances of the Tunisian textile industry.

I believe that the steps that we have taken with the Egyptian brothers are good, since hundreds of thousands of Egyptian brothers work in Libya and hundreds of thousands of Libyans visit Egypt. With these and other steps, we are tangibly advancing toward achieving Arab unity under the slogan of the interconnection between the interests of the sons of the single Arab people, wherever they are.

Asked whether Tunisian officials had security reservations about opening the borders with Libya, he said: We proposed to the Tunisian brothers the formation of joint security committees for security arrangements in the border areas. Praise be to God, over 500,000 Libyan tourists visit Tunisia every year and nearly as many Tunisians visit Libya, and our security conditions are good.

With regard to the prevailing impression in Tunisia that Libya prefers Egyptian workers, he said: There is no contradiction between rapprochement with Egypt and that with Tunisia. In fact, Libya decided to dispense with the services of foreigners (such as Soviets and Europeans) in order to provide new opportunities for the Arab workers and experts who want to work on its territory. However, employment does not depend on the state's initiatives alone.

Unfortunately, some people in Libya still avoid Tunisian workers because of the propaganda to which they were exposed during the former president's era and the 1985 crisis.

Some Libyans prefer to employ Egyptians, especially in agriculture, because of the difference in the wages which Tunisians and Egyptians request. Nevertheless, Tunisian

workers are still brothers and have a special status in Libya, especially in the Tripoli area.

Asked whether the consultations dealt with the subjects, especially the regional issues, which will be raised at the Casablanca summit that starts tomorrow, he said: Actually, the political consultations embraced all the issues which concern the Arab Maghreb and the Arab world, especially in this present stage in which the old world order has collapsed because of the collapse of the Soviet Union and in which there have been numerous moves to convene a conference to end the conflict between the Arabs and Israel.

Positions were close, and we hope that the Casablanca summit will produce tangible steps to build up the Arab Maghreb during this period of time, in which unity has been more strongly emphasized than ever.

Morocco

Hassan Views Sahara Issue 'Fundamental Cause'

LD1709082591 Rabat MAP in English 1317 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Rabat, Sep. 16 (MAP)—If Morocco has for 16 years exerted such sustained a military and financial effort in the Sahara, it is because the Sahara represents a fundamental cause for Morocco, King Hassan II of Morocco told French economic magazine "LA TRIBUNE DE L'EXPANSION".

In an interview republished by the Casablanca weekly "LA VIE ECONOMIQUE", the sovereign said that now that the Sahara issue is nearly settled, and with alleviation of war expenses Morocco will witness a psychological and economic take off. We can now collect the benefits of the huge investments we have placed in the Sahara.

On the Sahara phosphates, King Hassan II insisted they do not represent even 10pc [percent] of the Kingdom's reserves. Although of a good quality, the Sahara phosphates are really insignificant, he said.

The sovereign insisted it is not of the Moroccan nature to die for money, we die for our country, for honor for right but never for money, he said.

Basri Denies Existence of Political Prisoners

AU1909070091 Paris AFP in English 0501 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Paris, Sept 19 (AFP)—Moroccan Minister of Interior and Information Driss Basri, defending his country's human rights record, on Wednesday said there were no political prisoners in Moroccan jails.

In an interview with TF1 television , Basri said that detainees in Morocco were not political prisoners under Moroccan law, "no more than are rioters in British or French towns and suburbs."

He said rioters were guaranteed a defense, and benefitted from "all that Moroccan prisons can give in the way of guarantees and possibilities." The Moroccan official also denied the existence of a secret dungeon for political prisoners in Tazmamart in the Atlas Mountains.

Abraham Serfaty, one of Africa's longest held political prisoners who was expelled from Morocco last Friday to France, denounced the Tazmamart prison upon his arrival here.

Basri said that "as far as the Tazmamart prison is concerned, I repeat, as His Majesty (King Hassan II) has recently, that it exists only in the minds and imaginations of people who wish Morocco ill."

He said that if Morocco's human rights record were as poor as "some French media claimed" Morocco would "not have been considered first of all as a serious economic and political partner thoughout the West."

Political Prisoners' 'Left-Wing' Weekly Banned

LD1609041291 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Excerpt] The Government of Morocco Sunday banned the left-wing weekly EL-MOUATEN. This newspaper was founded by political prisoners who benefited from an amnesty by King Hassan II in May 1990. The first two issues of the newspaper were seized at the beginning of the summer. The entire editorial staff protested, asserting that authorities were still not ready to accept the principle of the freedom of expression. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Amir Allocates Land for New U.S. Embassy

LD1809231391 London KUNA in Arabic 1232 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Kuwait, 17 Sep (KUNA)—It was announced here today that His Highness the Amir of Kuwait instructed the government to allocate land to build an American Embassy on a new site in Kuwait, and consider it as a present from the Kuwaiti people to the American people. This came in a press statement by the minister of state for the affairs of the Amiri court, Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad.

Shaykh Nasir said that His Highness the Amir, may God keep him, instructed the government to allocate a piece of land in the Mishrif area to be the new site for the Embassy of the United States as a present from the Kuwaiti people to the friendly American people.

The minister of the affairs of the Kuwaiti court commented that this is an embodiment of the close, friendly ties between the peoples of Kuwait and the United States and of the existing strong cooperative relationship between the governments of the two friendly countries. It is an expression of appreciation for the principled and just position of the United States on the side of the State of Kuwait in confronting the wicked aggression against its land and people.

Oman

Amir of Kuwait Arrives for Short Visit 18 Sep

JN1809105691 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0955 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Salalah, 18 Sep (WAKH)—His Highness Shyakh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, arrived in Muscat this afternoon on a short visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

The amir of Kuwait was received by Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id and senior Omani officials.

Shaykh Jabir will hold talks with Sultan Qabus on bilateral issues and the recent developments in the region.

Ends Visit, Departs

JN1809163291 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Exceprts] His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of the sisterly State of Kuwait, and his delegation left the country this afternoon at the end of a one-day visit to Oman during which he met with his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus. [passage omitted]

His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad's visit was held to extend the Kuwaiti Government and people's thanks for the efforts made by the Omani Government in the liberation of Kuwait, and gratitude for hosting Kuwaitis during the crisis. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Independence of Baltic Republics Recognized

JN1809162791 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1320 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Doha, 18 Sep (WAKH)—The state of Qatar declared its recognition of the independence of the three Baltic republics—Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia—during today's session of the Qatari Council of Ministers under His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, .

In its decision, the council noted Qatar's readiness to cooperate with these indpendent states to promote relations on the basis of mutual respect [words indistinct] the good of their peoples and to promote world peace and [word indistinct].

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY said that his highness the amir of Qatar briefed the council on the positive and constructive results of last week's visit to Qatar by His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait.

Saudi Arabia

Sanaa Report on U.S. Air Force Plan Denied

LD1809221291 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2148 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Jeddah, 18 Sep (SPA)—A responsible source in a statement to SPA tonight denied a report by Sanaa radio quoting certain sources that instructions were given to thousands of U.S. Air Force personnel to get ready to go to bases in the Saudi Arabian Kingdom to implement a new plan, which Sanaa radio claimed will be implemented in 48 hours.

The source added that this report has no foundation in truth.

United Arab Emirates

Independence of Baltic States Recognized

JN1809190491 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1740 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 Sep (WAKH)—The United Arab Emirates [UAE] decided to recognize the independence of the three Baltic states—Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia—as independent sovereign states.

A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry stated to WAM [WAKALAT ANBA' AL-IMARAT EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY] that this recognition stems from the UAE Government's respect for peoples' right to self-determination.

The source said that the UAE welcomes the independence of these states, hoping that this will lead to the consolidation of stability and cooperation to bolster world peace.

Country Said 'Fully Cooperating' With UN

JN1909051391 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0430 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Iraqi Ambassador to the United Nations 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari has said Iraq had been fully cooperating with the United Nations and was trying to make arrangements so the UN weapons inspectors could do their job without violating Iraq's national sovereignty.

Al-Anbari dismissed the latest charge that his country was not cooperating with the UN weapons inspection teams as a tempest in a teacup, but expressed concern about a possible military strike against his country. He said: Of course, if the coalition led by the United States wants to commit an aggression against Iraq's people, certainly they are capable of doing that.

Envoy Refutes 'U.S. Lies'

JN1909094391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0925 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] United Nations, 19 Sep (INA)—Mr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent representative at the United Nations, has refuted U.S. lies against Iraq and said they only aim at terrorizing the Iraqi people.

In statements to journalists in New York last night, he said the United States seeks to terrorize Iraq's people and world public opinion. It tries to invent excuses whenever international pressure to lift the embargo against the Iraqi people intensifies.

An INA correspondent in New York quoted Mr. al-Anbari as saying that the lies lack objective bases. He said Iraq is fully cooperating with the UN special committee and is concerned about this cooperation. Ambassador al-Anbari said that the helicopter affair is a fabricated problem because Iraq has informed the United Nations that it accepts the use of German planes.

Source of 'Clamor' Noted

JN1909072491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0635 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Sep (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH stresses that U.S. intelligence services are behind the fabricated clamor over the use of UN helicopters for inspections on Iraqi territory. It says that these services exaggerate and convey false and dishonest information to justify resumption of the aggression against Iraq.

In its editorial today, the paper says that the U.S. Administration beat the drums of aggression against Iraq once again yesterday, and in a fabricated manner stepped up its threats under the pretext of implementing Security Council Resolution 707.

It adds: The U.S. escalation yesterday was concocted because the subject is still under study and discussion between Iraq's representative at the United Nations on one hand and the current chairman of the Security Council and the representatives of the Security Council's five permanent member states on the other.

What bears out that this fabricated clamor entails premeditated aggressive intentions, says the paper, is that Iraq had agreed that the international inspection team use German helicopters seconded to the United Nations, explaining, at the same time, its concern that these helicopters be used in a manner that ensures the national security of Iraq and the safety of the international inspectors.

The paper adds: The team may want go to regions still containing mines, bombs, and explosive materials dropped by the planes of the aggressive alliance over Iraqi territory. These explosives may detonate, endangering the life of the international inspectors if they go there alone.

This is what Iraq wanted to explain in advance and tried to avoid so that any accident involving this team could not be taken as an excuse to direct false accusations against Iraq.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: Iraq had already explained the circumstances of transporting the UN team; it showed concern for the safety of the team and willingness to facilitate its mission, as it did with all the inspection teams that visited Iraq and found serious Iraqi cooperation. The heads of the inspection teams have said that Iraq's cooperation proved, and is still proving, Iraq's good intentions and desire to cooperate with the United Nations.

Concluding, the paper says that those who follow the facts about this issue would conclude that it does not deserve this fabricated clamor, which shows the aggressive intentions of the U.S. Administration, which has all along been concocting excuses to maintain the unjust blockade against Iraq and justify a tyrannical policy that conflicts with international laws and upsets the minimum level of international relations.

Emergency Cabinet Meeting Called

JN1909091691 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0900 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Iraq today accused the United States of banging the drums of aggression and said new threats of force endangered regional security. Informed sources in Baghdad said government ministers were summoned to an emergency cabinet meeting today to discuss the threat after President George Bush said he had authorized U.S. military forces, if necessary, to escort UN teams inspecting Iraqi weapon sites.

5th UN Team Inspects Nuclear Research Institute

JN1809163991 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 17 Sep 91 pp 1, 11

[Text] The UN team of special experts in Iraq is carrying out its new week-long mission by inspecting Iraqi sites and installations, according to UN sources.

The 14-man team's mission will be restricted to only inspecting an Iraqi nuclear research institute, which was visited by the team the day before yesterday.

The team, which specializes in inspecting Iraqi nuclear facilities, is the fifth of its kind to visit Iraq to implement Security Council resolutions demanding Iraq to unveil and destroy its weapons.

Iraq's Nuclear Program Subject of UN Report

AU1609142591 Vienna PROFIL in German 16 Sep 91 pp 66-67

[Alan George report from London: "The Heads Are Still Smoking"—italicized words as transliterated]

[Text] Iraq's President Saddam Husayn is still trying to get his nuclear arms program. He might be successful despite the damage that allied bombers caused to the Iraqi nuclear facilities.

This conclusion is drawn by UN experts who recently investigated in Iraq whether the country is adhering the cease-fire resolution, which was signed by Saddam's representatives in April. According to this resolution, Baghdad would have to reveal its entire nuclear program and subsequently disassemble the facilities.

The report, dated 28 August, confirms above all that the Iraqis have been able to save the more important part of their nuclear facilities despite the Gulf war. The paper also notes that the Iraqis are still unwilling to give the names of those foreign companies and governments that contributed to the establishment of their nuclear arms program. The inspectors suspect that Iraq wants to resume the nuclear deals after the UN sanctions are lifted.

The UN experts, who traveled through Iraq from 27 July to 10 August, also confirm a long-standing assumption: It is now certain that Iraq has given top priority to the EMIS process for uranium enrichment (electromagnetic isotope separation).

In a calutron (abbreviation for California University Cyclotron) a strong electromagnet sorts uranium atoms into fissionable Uranium- 235 nuclei and Uranium-238 nuclei, which cannot be used for bombs. The enriched material is introduced into a another calutron, etc.; in this way the degree of enrichment of the uranium increases step by step. With a series of such calutrons the uranium explosive for "Little Boy," the Hiroshima bomb, was produced in Tennessee in the winter of 1944-45.

In the first Iraqi EMIS enrichment facility in Tarmiyah, north of Baghdad, production was started last year with a chain of eight calutrons. A second factory with 17 machines was just being built when the Gulf war broke out. Another facility with 20 calutrons was being planned.

According to the report by the UN inspectors, 90 calutrons were probably supposed to be installed in Tarmiyah—with this facility Saddam could have produced 15 kg of highly enriched (with more than 90 percent of Uranium-235) uranium, which can be used for weapons, every year—the amount that is sufficient for a bomb of the Hiroshima type. If the war had not broken out, Tarmiyah would have reached its full production capacity within 18 to 36 months. Thus, Saddam might have had his first bomb as early as at the end of 1992, at the latest, however, in mid-1994. Another, identical EMIS facility in Ash Sharqat (south of al-Mawsil) had already been built but not yet equipped with machinery. Both facilities were seriously damaged by allied bombings.

A large part of the equipment for the EMIS facilities was produced in Iraq by the nationalized company for heavy machinery construction in *Al Dura* as well as by the Badr General Establishment in *Al Walid* (20 km south of Baghdad), and by three factories of the *Auqba-Bin-Nafi* company in *Al Amin, Al Ameer, and Al Radwan.*

Parallel to the EMIS program, Iraq also developed another process for enriching uranium with high-speed centrifuges, which are linked up in stages in so-called cascades. In this project, too, as large a part as possible of the necessary equipment was supposed to be produced in the country. The centrifuges, which were assembled from ultrahard steel, were supposed to be produced within the framework of the Al-Furat (Euphrates) project in a factory complex in *Al Walid,* with a production of 600 centrifuges per year.

These facilities were under construction when the Gulf war broke out. "The complex," the UN report says, "was not damaged during the war and has so far not been known as a nuclear facility."

With a capacity of 600 centrifuges per year Al-Furat should have been put into service according to plan in mid-1991. A 100- centrifuge cascade should have started uranium enrichment on the company premises in mid-1993, and a 500-centrifuge cascade was supposed to start producing bomb material at the beginning of 1996—possibly in a different location.

The UN report notes that a cascade with 1,600 to 2,000 centrifuges produces 25 kg of highly enriched uranium per year—enough for a nuclear warhead. The UN experts point out that Iraq did all this "for nonpeaceful purposes."

The basic material for the production of bombs is "yellow cake" (uranium oxide), which is gained in mining. For the EMIS program one gets gaseous uranium tetrachloride from this, for the centrifuge program uranium hexafluoride gas. All that was supposed to be done in a chemical factory near Al-Mawsil—codename *"Al Jezira"*—which was built especially for this purpose. At the end of 1989 production of uranium oxide was started there with a daily output of 500 kg. The production of uranium tetrachloride—in two facilities with an

annual capacity of 150 kg—began at the beginning of last year. During the war the *Al-Jezira* factory was destroyed.

The UN inspectors repeatedly pointed to Iraq's attempt to camouflage its nuclear program, to safe equipment for future use, and to keep the foreign companies and governments, which had helped it, anonymous.

The Iraqi nuclear program was headed by Dr. Ja'far, currently deputy chairman of Saddam Husayn's Nuclear Energy Commission and deputy minister of industry. In talks with the inspectors, Dr. Ja'far repeatedly claimed that the nuclear program has exclusively peaceful purposes. The UN report commented that "Dr. Ja'far was obviously aware of the contradictions in his statements and occasionally noted that the possibility to produce material for weapons is clear."

In the Gulf war with the United Nations the Iraqis practiced camouflage and deception. According to the UN report, the loading and storing area of the uranium oxide facility in *Al-Jezira* was emptied and covered with gravel.

A large part of Iraq's nuclear equipment was buried in remote parts of the desert. The UN report complains that the Iraqis are still refusing to reveal individual parts of their arsenal.

Iraq "has not fulfilled its obligation to reveal its sources," the report writes. At the centrifuge factory in Al-Furat "identification data of the producer and serial numbers were made illegible or cut out."

The minds of Iraq's nuclear gnomes are still intact. "The damage (to the centrifuges) has set back the program by two to three years," the report estimates, "but the know-how still exists."

Conference Focuses on Iraqi Nuclear Violations

AU1609141691 Paris AFP in English 1343 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Vienna, Sept 16 (AFP)—Iraq found itself back in the spotlight over its repeated violations of atomic regulations as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) opened its 35th conference here Monday.

IAEA managing director Hans Blix said in his opening speech that agency inspections had found that Iraq was attempting to develop atomic weapons but had not yet succeeded.

"Fortunately, according to our inspections, full industrial production capacity had not been achieved in Iraq's uranium enrichment program, for which no peaceful purpose can be found," said Blix.

The agency has carried out four inspection missions since the end of the Gulf war and is currently engaged in a fifth.

Blix described Iraqi attempts to build a nuclear bomb as a "challenge" to the agency to reinforce its monitoring activities. He called for special inspections to be carried out based on information from satellites or intelligence services.

Iraq had refused permission for energy inspectors to visit certain sites while it carried out its undeclared program of uranium enrichment.

South Africa signed an inspection accord with the IAEA early Monday, removing the question of Pretoria's nuclear capability from the agenda following a series of intense debates over the past several years.

However, most IAEA members remained concerned over the attitude of North Korea, which has refused to sign an inspection accord with the IAEA until U.S. nuclear forces are pulled out of South Korea. Intelligence reports have said North Korea is close to manufacturing a nuclear device.

Israel's nuclear capability was also expected to be on the agenda, although the debate was expected to center around Egypt's proposal to ban nuclear weapons from the Middle East.

The three Baltic countries and Yemen were admitted to the body on Monday, bringing the total number of members to 115.

The conference, to continue until Friday, was also to discuss the safety of nuclear plants in Europe.

A proposal to set international standards for atomic plants met some opposition from countries opposed to international inspections of their nuclear power stations.

The environmental organization Greenpeace accused the IAEA on Monday of "disinformation, inaction and incompetence" and called on governments to vote for a radical reform of the agency.

Greenpeace particularly criticized a recent IAEA report on the health consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear catastrophe, saying the agency had played down the disaster.

Airspace Violations by U.S. U-2's Protested

JN1809203591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1950 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 18 Sep (INA)—Iraq has stressed that overflights by U.S. U-2 spyplanes coming from Saudi airspace over cities, villages, and hilltops constitutes a violation of Iraq's sovereignty and the sanctity of its territory and skies.

In a memorandum handed to Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Arab League secretary general, by Iraq's permanent representative to the league, Iraq said what is going on is flagrant American spying in the name of the United Nations, under the [word indistinct] of the special committee and with facilities provided by an Arab country.

The memorandum said the Government of the Republic of Iraq, while strongly protesting this dangerous violation of its sovereignty and the sanctity of its territory and skies, cannot but denounce changing the [word indistinct] territory and skies into a springboard for aggression on Iraq, pointing out that the Saudi authorities' disregard of Iraq's protests will undoubtedly set a dangerous precedence in inter-Arab relations, and will target other Arab countries in violation of the Arab League Charter.

It is noteworthy that this is the sixth violation of Iraqi airspace within 32 days.

PKK's Tas Denies Intent To Hit U.S. Troops

NC1809184191 Ankara TURKISH DAILY NEWS in English 17 Sep 91 pp 1, 11

[Report by TURKISH DAILY NEWS senior correspondent Ismet G. Imset]

[Text] Darkar, Iraq—The outlawed separatist Workers Party of Kurdistan (PKK) announced this weekend that counter to earlier expectations, the organization will make no attempt to hit U.S. military interests in Turkey for the time being.

The commander of the PKK Botan camp group in northern Iraq told the TURKISH DAILY NEWS that his organization intended to avoid any armed conflict with U.S. troops as long as the United States stayed out of the warfare in Turkey's southeastern regions.

Nizamettin Tas, code named Botan, said in an exclusive interview that the PKK accepted the United States as a country at war with his organization but added that this did not necessitate the two sides being involved in an armed conflict. "The United States is already our target as an imperialist country but we are not at the stage of drawing America into a battle at the time being," said Tas.

Pointing out that U.S. troops in the region were theoretically placed there against a possible Iraqi aggression directed at that country's Kurdish minority, Botan claimed U.S. forces in Silopi were also gathering intelligence against his organization. "However, they are also avoiding an armed conflict with us and... we are determined not to attack them as long as they do not attack," he added.

PKK leaders in another camp based in the Harkuk [place name as published] region near the Turkish border claimed, meanwhile, that U.S. Air Force jets and helicopters based at the Silopi camp in southeast Turkey were being used for anti-terrorist surveillance purposes. They also said U.S. helicopters were used after Turkey's operation into Iraq, for search-and-rescue operations.

The Harkuk camp political commander, "Cemal," told the TURKISH DAILY NEWS in a separate interview conducted in the mountains that orders were issued to the militants not to open fire on these helicopters unless they were subjected to a direct attack. Tas also warned that the United States should refrain from active involvement in a military intervention. He also added, however that this calm would not last long. "When we reach the necessary level," he said, "we will then enter military activities (against U.S. targets)."

This PKK leader further alleged that U.S. planes and helicopters had also been spotted in the regions of Cudi, Sirnak, Uladere and Cabbar. Immediately before the TURKISH DAILY NEWS interview, two surveillance aircraft accompanied by a couple of fighter jets flew over the mountainous region north of Zakho where the PKK's "tactical Botan camp," which holds some 100 armed separatists, is believed to be situated. Their country of origin could not be identified, although Kurdistan Democrat Party guerillas said they were U.S. planes.

Turkish soldiers

Questioned by the TURKISH DAILY NEWS on the whereabouts of the seven Turkish soldiers kidnapped by the PKK during a raid on a border station last month, Tas said they were in good health and would be released soon. Tas, or Botan, who resides at the camp which is mainly a base used by the organization to carry out hit-and-run raids into Turkey, confirmed that the soldiers had been moved out of the Harkuk camp where they were shown to journalists last month. The TURKISH DAILY NEWS, which visited the vicinity of the second camp as well, was told that PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan's brother Osman was in charge of the soldiers' safety and had moved elsewhere, taking them with him.

Although officials in Ankara indicated that the captives may have been shifted to the al-Biqa' Valley where the PKK has its main training center, organization leaders denied this report and said they were still being held in the region. "We do not differentiate between northern and southern Kurdistan but I can assure you that the soldiers are still here," Tas said.

Another militant from the Harkuk camp claimed, however, that the soldiers may be moved into Lebanon in the near future—from where they may be transferred to an unidentified European country to be released. "What we want to do is to make sure that once released, the soldiers are safe. That is why we would like to give the soldiers over to an international body such as the United Nations and do this on safe grounds," the militant said.

Botan added that although one of the main problems in securing the release was the safety of the soldiers, the PKK was also intending to time it carefully. "With the developments in the world and the election coming up," he said, "I believe we will only be able to release the soldiers after the elections, when more attention can be directed to this issue."

Tourist abductions

On the recent wave of tourist abductions in southern Turkey, both Tas and PKK leaders at the Harkuk camp expressed mounting skepticism and doubts.

In Harkuk, where the PKK trains its militants in constantly shifting camps, leaders of the organization pointed out that absolutely no information had been received on the recent kidnapping of three Americans, a Briton and an Australian in Bingol province.

Cemal told the TURKISH DAILY NEWS that normally news from the PKK in Bingol region reaches the camp in three days but added that for the first time, they had heard nothing from local militants. "Probably it is due to the Turkish military operations there. Perhaps they cannot leave the area to pass on information," he said. However, both in the Botan and Harkuk regional camps, leaders of the organization are confident that some news will be heard in the coming days.

An unidentified group leader, responsible for the abduction of five German tourists who were released earlier, is to be punished by the PKK. According to Tas, if the recent abduction has also been carried out by PKK units, their leaders are also liable for punishment.

"Kidnapping tourists is a mistaken activity. It is one which our leadership does not recognize and tries to avoid. However, the German tourists were kidnapped by a PKK unit independently and without central approval. They were released on our orders immediately after we heard the news," says Tas.

He also claims that the Turkish security operation in and around Bingol and Mus is creating new difficulties in contacting the local PKK units.

Still, though, Tas warns that foreign tourists travelling to the region may be caught and interrogated by the organization: "This is not kidnapping. Only a brief detention and questioning," he says. "If the tourists have committed no 'crimes' against the local people, they are to be released without haste."

One warning that has been repeated by Tas, Cemal and PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan is that if foreigners want to travel to the southeast without problems, they should get organization permission in advance. This self-style "visa system" calls for foreigners to apply to the PKK's front, ERNK [National Liberation Front of Kurdistan], in Europe and inform them of what they intend to do in the Turkish Southeast and where they intend to travel. The outlaws say they will guarantee their safety.

Organizational leaders also accept that this move is basically a psychological campaign, to give the impression that the region is under their control.

Because the recent abduction in Bingol still appears murky, PKK leaders are doubtful that the act was carried out by their own militants. They tend to question whether some "secret forces" may be behind the kidnapping—in a bid to place a new burden on the organization.

They also accept that activities whose origin is questionable cannot be considered legitimate guerrilla acts and point out that an independent unit "may have thought that this was a good way to do something after the kidnapping of the (German) tourists."

The general view is in fact that taking foreign hostages is worthless, and costly as far as time and effort is concerned. Tas' message, though, is clear: "The tourists are not our target. Such activities are a mistake. However, we want them to listen to our warning."

Official: 'Final Touches' Remain on Kurds Accord

JN1909085191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 19 Sep (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih stressed that the Iraqi people are ready to tighten their belts to foil the enemies' conspiracy of starvation against Iraq.

In a statement to AL-'IRAQ published today, he said the people of Iraq will not accept bread without dignity; they are satisfied with the bare minimum if this maintains their dignity, sovereignty, and freedom.

Addressing the economic situation and ensuring proper living standards for all citizens, he said, is a pressing task. The values of work should be emphasized to secure a better future for our great people, who made every sacrifice for the homeland, freedom, and dignity.

Speaking about the dialogue with the Kurdistan Front, the National Assembly speaker said many issues have been solved. What remains is only to announce the agreement after members of the Kurdistan Front arrive in Baghdad to put the final touches, he said.

He added that the Iraqi leadership is working diligently to render this dialogue a success, with a view to firming up national unity and enhancing common efforts in the field of construction and jihad. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Antiregime Operations

NC1709154891 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1425 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] In response to the Saddamist forces' crimes against civilians in the various areas in southern Iraq, and particularly the marshlands, the popular forces last week launched heroic attacks against the 'Aflaqists in the marshlands north of al-Qurnah and al-Jabsh Province.

According to informed sources, 25 detachments of Saddam's mercenaries were destroyed during these attacks. The sources add that the heroic revolutionaries controlled the center of the city of al-Jabsh for almost two days and destroyed the dens of the al-Ba'th party and the

positions of the Saddamist forces there. The revolutionaries confiscated the military vehicles and tanks which had been brought to bombard the area.

The same sources add that 35 criminals who took treacherous stands against the sons of the proud Iraqi people were killed during these operations.

Government Supporters Said Executed

NC1809153291 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1425 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] In implementation of the people's decision to put to death all those who betrayed their people and collaborated with the criminal Saddamist gang, units of Iraq's popular heroes in al-Hashimiyah carried out a daring suicidal operation in which they killed three criminals of the atheist al-Ba'th party: Ziyad [word indistinct], 'Ali Jadduh, and Kazim al-Janadil.

Informed sources have reported that the strugglers also managed to inflict serious wounds on the criminal Nazim al-Masa'i, the official in charge of the al-Hashimiyah party branch. The sources added that the sons of our noble people will continue to carry out death sentences against the butchers of the Ba'thist regime.

Salaries of National Assembly Members Increased

JN1809181791 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 16 Sep 91 p 1

[Text] The Revolution Command Council [RCC] decided to increase the lump sum monthly remuneration of the National Assembly member to 500 dinars and lump sum allocations to 150 dinars per month as of 5 September 1991.

The RCC also decided to increase the monthly salary of the members of the Legislative Council for the autonomous region to 300 dinars, and monthly allocations to 150 dinars also as of 5 September 1991.

RCC Increases Salaries of Conscripts, Others

JN1809190891 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 16 Sep 91 p 1

[Text] The Revolution Command Council [RCC] has decided to increase the salaries of conscripts, reservists, and police academy cadets.

The following is the text of the decree:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Decree No. 341 issued by the RCC on 14 September 1991.

In accordance with Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC decrees the following:

1. Military conscripts and reservists' monthly salaries shall be increased by 40 percent.

2. The monthly salaries of police academy cadets shall be increased by 30 percent.

3. RCC Decree No. 334, dated 5 September 1991, and this decree shall come into force as of 5 September 1991.

This decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and the competent ministers shall implement its provisions.

[signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman

Paper Decries Syrian 'Hegemony' Over Lebanon

JN1809114691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Sep (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ said that the Lebanese voices demanding the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for the Israeli forces' withdrawal from Lebanon, have gotten nowhere despite the U.S. promises to the Arab regimes which participated in the unjust aggression on Iraq.

In a political analysis today, the paper adds that Bush's administration ignores the Lebanese demands although the Lebanese Government, acting under Syrian hegemony, disarmed the PLO factions and ended the national Lebanese resistance against the occupation forces and their agents in the South Lebanese Army.

The paper stresses that Resolution 425 should be part of the settlement talks which, the paper says, might not be held in October as previously scheduled due to the Soviet events and the Zionist entity's attempt to obtain U.S. guarantees for a $10-billion loan to absorp the Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied Arab territories.

The paper adds that the Lebanese Government is trying to assert its authority over all Lebanon, but the Syrian regime, which is involved in the scheme of fragmenting Lebanon, expanded the circle of its influence within the Lebanese military institution. Moreover, the Lebanese Army's intellignece was placed under the command of a joint Syrian-Lebanese body.

The paper indicates that the Syrian hegemony over Lebanon was not confined to the Armed Forces; it extended to the Lebanese economy, turning it into a satellite by establishing joint companies to dominate the public economic and construction utilities and vital services such as Beirut harbor, the airport, electricity, refineries, and transportation routes.

The paper mentions in this regard the Syrian Qasyun Company, which is owned by the ruling family in Damascus and which is monopolizing the contractual sector. The company's activities, it says, includes spreading administrative corruption, bribery, and dishonesty as part of a plan to destroy Lebanon.

Reservations on Arab League Resolution on Peace

JN1809113391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Sep (INA)—An Iraqi official affirmed that Iraq has reservations about the Arab League resolution on settling the Arab-Zionist conflict because what has been adopted is not the correct way for solving the Palestine question.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH published today, Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, chief of the Arab Desk at the Foreign Ministry, noted that Clause A of the resolution adopted by the 96th session of the Arab League Council does not make any reference to the resolutions of the Arab summit conferences and the Arab League Council. He added that what is currently proposed within the framework of the contacts led by the United States is not an international conference in accordance with Article 38/58 of the UN General Assembly resolution adopted on 13 January 1983. Hammudi said that the General Assembly resolution affirms that the Palestinian Arab people should receive their just rights; it also calls for ending the Zionist occupation of Arab territory. What is being proposed now is a retreat from the bases underscored by the General Assembly resolutions.

Hammudi added that the draft resolution presented to the Arab League calls for giving an Arab carte blanche to the negotiating parties without abiding by the Arab constants based on the resolutions of the Arab summit conferences and the Arab League. And this made Iraq express reservations about the resolution. Iraq, meanwhile, supported the two paragraphs on following up and supporting the Palestinian intifadah, and on the Jewish immigration from the USSR and other countries to Palestine and the other occupied Arab territory.

Referring to the amendment of the Arab League Charter and bylaw, Qasim Hammudi affirmed that Iraq believes more efforts and time are needed to discuss such amendment in more appropriate circumstances, rather than under the present circumstances. He noted that the amendment should be reached unanimously and with the consent of the summit. This requires that Arab interests, not transient narrow needs, are taken into consideration.

The chief of the Arab Desk at the Foreign Ministry noted that Iraq, which is a member of the seven-man committee that studied, years ago, many proposals to develop the Charter endorsed since 1945, called for resuming the dialogue and exchanging ideas on this issue and discussing the bylaw to establish an Arab court.

Hammudi said that the basis for establishing an Arab court is to discuss the authority of this court in resolving disputes among Arab countries, the members of the Arab League. This issue requires more efforts and time, he said.

Sa'd Qasim Hammudi described the 96th session of the Arab League Council as a turning of the wheel of common Arab action after it stopped for one whole year.

Finance Minister Returns From Sudan, Yemen

JN1709172691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0925 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Sep (INA)—Finance Minister Muhammad 'Id Ja'far returned to Baghdad today following a visit of several days to Sudan and Yemen.

In a statement to INA, the minister said that during the visit he held talks with officials in both fraternal countries. He said the talks mainly dealt with the promotion of relations of coopertion and and brotherhood, and with the consolidation of solidarity in order to confront the dangers posed to the Arab nation and lift the unjust economic blockade imposed on Iraq.

Shamir Aides on Guarantees, Attending Conference

TA1909081091 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Sep 91 pp A1, 4

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] The exacerbation of the guarantees crisis is threatening to sabotage the progress made in U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's talks toward the convening of the peace conference. Associates of the prime minister said last night that although Jerusalem's official policy stated that there is no linkage between the two issues, there is no chance that Israel will attend a peace conference sponsored by the U.S. Administration unless it changes the attitude reflected by the guarantees affair. Shamir has also rejected the demand to freeze settlement during the negotiations.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 19 September reports that "political sources fear that after holding up the loan guarantees, the administration may also slash the annual civilian aid to Israel to force it to withdraw to the 1967 borders." Political correspondent Arye Golan reports that "last night, a senior Israeli official summed up the loan guarantee crisis following the two meetings with Secretary of State Baker in Jerusalem, saying: The situation is tough, but a way out is being sought."]

At the same time, the political echelon has decided to wait for the Palestine National Council [PNC] to convene in Algiers, assuming that PLO-Tunis or its representatives in the territories will create obstacles that will not allow the conference to convene. Baker's associates said that in his conversation with the Palestinian notables, Baker made it clear that he will not wait for their reply for more than a week or 10 days and that the test of their intentions will be their agreement to begin talks with Jordan on the joint delegation.

The Palestinians did not oppose a U.S. commitment to Israel that the solution will not be based on the establishment of a Palestinian state, but demanded that the document of intent the United States will give them mention their right to self-determination. Baker rejected this demand and suggested that his interlocutors settle for a U.S. declaration concerning the need for the negotiations to lead to the end of the occupation. The Palestinians have not yet reached an agreement with the United States concerning representation from Jerusalem, but Egypt and Yasir 'Arafat have already compiled the list of Palestinian representatives. Cairo promised Washington that the PLO leader will make every effort to get a PNC majority to approve this list, which includes 'Ali Abu-Hilal, the deportee who was allowed to return to Abu-Dis, which until 1967 was within Jerusalem's city limits.

In his conversations with Israeli and Palestinian representatives, Baker presented the draft of the invitation to the peace conference as prepared by the United States. He did not leave a copy of the invitation in the hands of the parties, but Israel's representatives noted that UN Resolution 242 was mentioned four times in the 20-line letter. A senior political source said that mentioning the resolution—which calls for an Israeli withdrawal from territories it conquered in 1967—so many times is a worrisome message and added that Israel would like to change this draft. At the same time, Baker agreed that the document of assurances include a clause saying that the United States recognizes the fact that each party has its own interpretation of that resolution.

Baker suggested that Israel choose between a unilateral letter of assurances and a bilateral memorandum of understanding. Jerusalem opted for the latter. Israel asked that the letter/memorandum concerning the Palestinian representation be amended, because the proposed phrasing does not absolutely exclude a Palestinian from East Jerusalem who currently resides elsewhere in the territories from participating as a representative of Jerusalem. Also, Israel is not pleased with the formulation of the clause allowing it not to negotiate with anyone with whom it cannot sit. Israel wants it to be stated that the United States justifies the Israeli delegation's leaving the talks should a Palestinian representative present himself as a representative of the PLO. So far, the United States has rejected this demand.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 19 September carries a related report, adding that "according to political sources in Jerusalem, the demand for a real memorandum of understanding stems from the fact that the Arabs have dug in their heels even deeper and the Palestinians are insisting that a representative from Jerusalem participate in the conference. The issue of the composition of the Palestinian delegation is only one of the topics that remains open, pending the letter of assurances. Freedom to interpret UN Resolution 242 is another unresolved issue. Jerusalem has not yet officially reacted to reports from Damascus regarding a U.S. pledge for an Israeli withdrawal from all fronts, the Golan Heights included, as an interpretation of that resolution. Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi of Moledet said that Baker's promise to the Syrians conflicts with President Ford's letter of 1975. Which side, then, has been disappointed by the U.S. stands, asked Ze'evi rhetorically."]

Jerusalem considers its most important achievement in the talks on the memorandum of understanding to be the U.S. commitment to guarantee Israel's security on the Syrian border, within the framework of the U.S. Constitution. This means that the Bush administration is willing to go further than the Ford administration and, should the need arise, appeal to Congress for military intervention against Syria if it attacks Israel on a border that will have been determined in peace negotiations.

In two days, Foreign Minister David Levi will travel to the United States to attend the UN General Assembly discussions. While in New York, Levi will meet with Secretary Baker, and they will discuss the guarantees and the memorandum of understanding. In his absence, the

prime minister will put Foreign Ministry personnel to work and will finalize the policy concerning the conference and the guarantees. Levi will also meet with the new Soviet foreign minister, as well as with his Chinese, Egyptian, British, and German counterparts. With the latter, he will discuss the $5 billion in aid requested by Israel and which Bonn has recently pledged not to make conditional on any political issue, demanding only that the money not be used beyond the Green Line.

Olmert—Review Needed After Baker Golan Remark

TA1909084391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Telephone interview with Health Minister Ehud Olmert by Gay Zohar—live]

[Text] [Zohar] Good morning, Health Minister Ehud Olmert.

[Olmert] Good morning.

[Zohar] James Baker said at a Damascus news conference that the United States supports Syria's demand for the return of the Golan Heights and that the Syrian interpretation of Resolutions 242 and 338 is acceptable to the United States. To recall, the resolutions refer not only to Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, but also to the Golan Heights. Although this may be the U.S. position, how should Israel react to the fact that this statement was made before the negotiations have even started?

[Olmert] There is no question that Mr. Baker's remarks in Syria have created a situation that necessitates a review of our position. This is my personal view, of course; it does not have to influence anyone, but it is my immediate reaction. The U.S. position is not the question here. Its position is not new, and we were not surprised by the fact that this is that country's position, but it is hard to ignore both the context and the circumstances in which this position found expression. It seems to me that here Mr. Baker took an unnecessary step. The gravity of this does not lie in the fact that from now on it will be on the record that this is the U.S. position, because, as I said, that position in itself is not new; however, the signal given by making that statement in Syria and by the way in which it was made suggests that the Arabs have been granted a wide maneuvering space to insist on their positions and make demands because the United States stands by their side.

[Zohar] When you say Israel should review its position, do you mean that it should reconsider its participation in the peace conference?

[Olmert] First of all, there is no mention of a conference, unless here, too, the United States has renounced its earlier positions. What the conference means, after all, is bilateral negotiations, which is to say direct talks between every two parties involved. Still, I definitely think that a review is called for regarding the way and the terms for our participation and everything else that has to do with this, though not with regard to our participation itself.

[Zohar] Now, with respect to the guarantees and their relationship to settlement: In this context, James Baker is quoted as having said in Damascus that while he does not link the two as such, the United States has the right to ask and know how the money will be utilized. How should Israel conduct itself now?

[Olmert] Look, I think that in this matter there is no room for a change in the substantive Israeli position, certainly not at this stage. One cannot deny the United States' right to know what will be done with the money it gives and to differ with us or even to object to settlement; there is no dispute about this, and none of us has argued to the contrary. Yet what lurks behind this position—the remarks made in Damascus and the statements made in Cairo, which may be repeated today in Amman—is the U.S. Administration's determination to employ every measure at its disposal to pressure us in order to achieve an outcome that the vast majority of the Israeli population rejects. This, in fact, is the problem.

[Zohar] Would you say that now, in view of that news conference in Damascus, the U.S. position is more hostile toward Israel than toward the other side?

[Olmert] I am not referring to the Damascus news conference specifically; I am talking about the general mood. Look, it is extremely difficult to use the term hostile in reference to a country whose support and aid we have rather enjoyed. What I am saying is that to apply this term to the country would be hard. But if you are talking about the administration, I would go back to a statement I made some time ago. There is no emotional bond, there is not the deep feeling that characterized previous administrations, which differed with us on many issues and, incidentally, also thought that settlement is bad and that Israel should withdraw to the 1967 lines. These policy guidelines were forged back in 1967 by a rather sympathetic Democratic administration, led by Johnson and Dean Rusk. Here, however, I am talking about the style and the mood. I cannot overlook the complacency—I would even venture to say the awe—which Baker feels sitting and talking to al-Asad, whose hands are stained with the blood of U.S. civilians. On the other hand, extreme sensitivity has been demonstrated regarding anything that happens here, and this goes beyond differences of opinion that are legitimate in and of themselves. It is something that reflects emotional or mental states of mind which cannot be ignored. This is something we must learn to contend with and address.

[Zohar] Thank you very much, Health Minister Ehud Olmert.

[Olmert] Thank you.

Arens on Guarantees, Peace, Settlement

TA1809205091 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky on the 18th anniversary of the Yom Kippur War—recorded on 18 September]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Shlonsky] Mr. Arens, yesterday your team completed another round of talks with U.S. Secretary of State Baker. Can you say that tonight we are closer to an international conference than we were, let us say, a week ago?

[Arens] I think we are about a week closer. Progress has been made, and I believe we are on our way to an encounter which is supposed to result in direct negotiations between Israel and its neighbors.

[Shlonsky] Can you give us details about what happened in this recent round of talks that has made you optimistic, relatively speaking?

[Arens] I would not say I am more optimistic today than I was a week ago, because we had finalized the principles of the encounter and everything resulting from it during Mr. Baker's previous visit. Right now we are worried by what happened a week ago. I am referring to the controversy over the guarantees and our apprehension that the Arab world is liable to view the fact that we were denied the guarantees, or rather the U.S. President's unwillingness to grant us the guarantees for the absorption of Soviet aliyah at this time, as a means to pressure Israel in the context of the peace process. They are even liable to present this issue as a condition for joining the peace process.

[Shlonsky] What prevents the United States from sending invitations to the international conference?

[Arens] I believe the secretary of state will finalize a few details during the current visit. In addition, there is the issue of the composition of the Palestinian delegation. It is apparently a Palestinian problem, and I do not know whether he will be able to solve it.

[Shlonsky] Has the issue been resolved as far as Israel is concerned? Is there American consent to....

[Arens, interrupting] The principles have been finalized: There will be no representative from Jerusalem; there will be no representatives from the diaspora; there will be no PLO participation.

[Shlonsky] In view of the present controversy over the guarantees with the United States—mainly with President Bush—are you not a little bit sorry for at least the timing of some of the recent settlements, which may have brought on the crisis?

[Arens] I do not believe the crisis with the U.S. Administration stems from this or that timing of a settlement or two. What we have here is a fundamental disagreement on everything connected to settlement in Judaea and Samaria, and in East Jerusalem too, I believe, if the U.S. stand is interpreted correctly here. The stand is not new: I think past administrations were not enthusiastic, either—to use an understatement—about Jewish settlement in these areas. In the past, however, they were unwilling to make this issue into a public bone of contention, a public controversy between Israel and the United States.

[Shlonsky] Mr. Begin once agreed to freeze settlement activities for a few months. Why can you not take a similar step at this time, when the situation is so tense and laden with emotions? We have seen what goes on in Washington. Why can't the prime minister declare a few months' freeze to help us weather this crisis?

[Arens] I would not advise him to do it. By the way, the Americans never even suggested it. I think the disagreement goes deeper than a freeze of a few days, or even a few weeks. Besides, you must not forget that 100,000 Israelis live in Judaea and Samaria—far more than in the days of Mr. Begin's negotiations at Camp David. These settlements are a living creature: Children are born, relatives and friends come and join; schools have to be built. [passage omitted]

[Shlonsky] To reach peace, to attain a significant breakthrough, the prime minister and the rest of you need to make some concession, some truly courageous move. Looking back on the negotiations, what courageous move did the prime minister or the rest of the team make in recent months? Or have you made none? Have you made any concession which could allow the process jump one degree higher?

[Arens] I do not think there is room for a critical evaluation of what the prime minister has or has not done. It is a fact that we are now on the verge of an encounter that will lead to direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab countries. Mr. Baker told us, although we needed no reminder: This is what you wanted. And it is true; this is what we have wanted for the past 43 years: direct negotiations between Israel and its neighbors. We have achieved it with Egypt, and now there is a good chance to start the same process with Syria and Jordan.

[Shlonsky] What you are saying in fact is that your team has managed to reach the negotiating table without any significant concession or shortcut.

[Arens] I believe it is true. This is an achievement of this government. It is a natural outcome, because I do not think there is any reason for a country that had been attacked five times by its neighbors to make concessions in a bid to acquire their consent to sit down and negotiate.

[Shlonsky] Do you believe that with the present state of Israeli settlement in Judaea and Samaria, negotiations can make progress despite everything, despite the opposition of the United States and, of course, the Arabs?

[Arens] I have no doubt. There are people who will tell you that, on the contrary, the massive Israeli presence in Judaea and Samaria constitutes an incentive for the Arab world to come to the negotiating table. [passage omitted]

Ben-Aharon Reacts to U.S. Aide's Briefing

TA1909062491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by political correspondent Arye Golan on 19 September—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] Good morning, Mr. Ben-Aharon.

[Ben-Aharon] A very good morning to you, too.

[Golan] The official on Baker's aircraft has now established the linkage [preceding word in English] between the loan guarantees and the settlements, and it now appears that if settlement does not cease, the loan guarantees will not be coming—evidently not even in 120 days.

[Ben-Aharon] Well, we regret this, but the view that the settlements really constitute the obstacle was also made clear during the talks the ministerial team, led by the prime minister, held with Secretary Baker. We are surprised and regret this, because the United States has a long-standing tradition of extending assistance for humanitarian needs as a rule, especially in our case. We have consistently implored them to draw a distinction between the humanitarian issue of resettling new immigrants and the political issue. The President said that he does not want to interrupt the peace process, but now it turns out that the settlements are the obstacle. As everyone knows, settlement is an issue related to the future of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District—in other words, the territorial issue, which will undoubtedly feature prominently in the negotiations with the Arab countries.

[Golan] You must have read Abba Eban's article, in which he contends that, in his view, Israel's behavior on this point is like a man who, while negotiating the sale of his car, removes the wheels, which is to say: establishes faits accomplis.

[Ben-Aharon] Well, this may be Abba Eban's view, but it has nothing to do with the substance of the matter, which is as follows: We received U.S. assistance in opening the gates of the Soviet Union for emigration, and we could have submitted the request as early as March. Congress would then have acceded to our request and supported it with a large majority. Yet, at the behest of the administration, we agreed to put off our request until September. Now, however, the administration is seeking an additional delay, but it looks like the deferral is simply meant to pressure Israel and its government on the eve of the negotiations. This is not the right way. The settlements carry no weight as far as the future of the territories is concerned; this issue is a topic for negotiations in accordance with Israel's commitment under the Camp David accords. This is something we are prepared for. But acceptance of the demand that we freeze settlement activity now would mean that we acknowledge the legitimacy of the Arab demand for sovereignty over Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. It is unthinkable that Israel will prevent Jews from settling in those areas.

[Golan] The practical implication of this being that we are forgoing the $10-billion loan guarantees?

[Ben-Aharon] I hope not; I hope the administration and Congress will reach some compromise that will facilitate the deferral, if the President insists on it, but that will still allow the loan guarantees to be approved in January and will indeed make possible the separation between this issue—which is vital to our absorption of aliyah—and the peace process and the decision on the future of these areas in negotiations.

[Golan] Mr. Ben-Aharon, to conclude, after the talks with Baker and in light of the statements we have heard from a member of his entourage, as well as from President Bush, would you say that the moment of truth in the battle over Eretz Yisra'el has arrived?

[Ben-Aharon] I do not know; we have used this turn of phrase a number of times before. We are approaching critical days insofar as the political issue is concerned, yet we still have a long way to go in terms of the peace process, because although some progress was made during the secretary's visit this week, there are still the conditions we presented regarding our agreement to join the regional meeting which is expected to be the opening for direct negotiations. These have to do primarily with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Israel will not agree to join this process before a delegation acceptable to us is set up, before it is clear that the PLO is not a partner, and before it is clear that free bilateral negotiations will be held between us and each of the Arab elements.

[Golan] Thank you very much, Mr. Ben-Aharon.

[Ben-Aharon] Thank you and shalom.

Inauguration of New Settlement Due 'Next Week'

TA1909101691 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Sep 91 p A2

[By Menahem Rahat]

[Text] The inauguration ceremony of a new settlement, Tzur Yig'al—which will spill over both sides of the Green Line—will be held next week. The foundations for the residences are already being laid this week. Sources dealing with setting it up said that the ceremony has nothing to do with James Baker's recent visit here.

The settlement, named after the late Knesset Member [MK] Yig'al Kohen, is being set up as part of the Seven-Star plan, initiated by MK Mikha'el Eytan and

being hastily executed by the Construction and Housing Ministry, with the encouragement of Minister Ari'el Sharon. This settlement is located on the Green Line, but its development plans extend east of it as well. It borders on Kokhav Ya'ir and Kibbutz Eyal to the west and creates territorial continuity with settlements beyond the Green Line, such as Tzufim and Alfey Menashe. The inauguration ceremony will be attended by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Foreign Minister David Levi, Defense Minister Moshe Arens, and other ministers.

Government Maneuvering on Settlements Examined

TA1609152091 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Sep 91 p B1

[Commentary by Yerah Tal: "Who Is it Kidding?"]

[Text] The government's methods of creating the illusion of cost-cutting were again revealed in the course of the debates over the endorsement of the state budget. The methods employed are projection adjustments and false reports. Thus, for example, 50,000 immigrants were erased in one fell swoop from the Immigrant Absorption Ministry's projection, which led to the ostensible saving of 400 million shekels on paper. The Construction and Housing Ministry bore the brunt of this cutback.

The interministerial team has been preparing the national master plan for construction and immigrant absorption, a plan that will bind all government ministries when it is endorsed by the cabinet and is based on aliyah projections of 250,000 immigrants per year. The fact that the government only began considering the possibility that these projections were exaggerated on the night that the budget was confirmed is strange and arouses the suspicion that this was an artificial step stemming from the pressures to make cuts in the budget at any cost. This, especially after the experience gleaned from the recent waves of immigration, showed that the aliyah policy must guarantee itself wide budgetary margins in case reality outstrips projections.

Along with this system of self-deception, the government continues with its attempts to mislead others by publishing falsified data about the scope of construction in the territories and its target population. It appears that the scope of construction in the territories is more than double than that reported by the Construction and Housing Ministry (13,000 new housing units). The gap in the data results from the fact that the official statistics do not include the building in large urban settlements, such as the ultraorthodox town of Betar, or in Ma'ale Adumim where hundreds of housing units are currently being set up, something which will double the size of the settlement and link it with Jerusalem. The claim that the construction efforts are not designated for immigrants does not hold water. Hundreds of immigrant families are already living in settlements like Ari'el, Ma'ale Adumim, and Qiryat 'Arba, and a lot more are on their way.

The government claims that there are no new settlements. There may not be new names on the map, but the existing settlements are being methodically expanded. Next to the settlement of Mevo Betar, which was made up of a handful of religious settlers, the ultraorthodox town of Betar is currently under construction. The settlement of 'Ofarim, which now comprises approximately 14 families, is scheduled to be expanded into a city housing thousands of families. The government is carrying out comprehensive road work while claiming that it is needed by the army, but the true aim is the expansion of the infrastructure for civilian settlements. This is where it should be mentioned that the designation of roads for military purposes has proved to be a convenient way to circumvent the lengthy regulation processes which civilian infrastructure generally requires; the paving of a road for military purposes only needs the signature of a senior army officer, while building a road in the civilian sphere requires the endorsement of planning committees.

The government's inclination to take the easy way out and carry out cosmetic changes instead of making the necessary budget cuts is especially underscored by the way it decided to slash the Construction and Housing Ministry's budget. Although it adjusted the number of next year's planned building starts from the 44,000 demanded by the Construction Ministry to only 15,000, as required by the new aliyah projections, it did not intervene with the internal distribution of the Construction and Housing Ministry's budget. In other words, the priorities were not altered. This means a shrinkage of the total construction budget, but judging from Minister Ari'el Sharon's statements and from what he calls his "Zionist" priorities, he does not intend to reduce the scope of construction in the territories. Therefore, the brunt of the cuts will come at the expense of the building efforts inside the Green Line. The government's nonintervention in the internal distribution of the construction budget actually constitutes an intervention in clear political ramifications. Maintaining the current order of priorities, which emphasizes building in the territories together with a whole series of incentives to attract settlers, such as expanded mortgages, grants, and loans given to those settling in preferred areas, the scope of which have apparently not been cut, will leave immigrants and young couples no alternative but to move to the territories, at the expense of strengthening the development towns.

Police 'Leaning Toward' Irangate Criminal Probe

TA1609071891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] The Israel Police has ended its probe into the vast amount of material concerning the Irangate affair, and police top brass are leaning toward recommending that a criminal investigation be launched. The findings of the probe, which was conducted under a veil of secrecy and which lasted several months, have been passed on to the state attorney. The state attorney will hold consultations before reaching a final decision on the next steps.

Top police officers said this is a particularly sensitive affair which deals with Israel's sale of arms to Iran in the mid 1970's with U.S. encouragement. The probe is currently focusing on some $2 million that vanished in the course of the transactions.

Ethiopians Arrive in Immigration 'Breakthrough'

TA1609124891 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 16 Sep 91 p 7

[Report by Yoram Navin]

[Excerpts] Yesterday afternoon 30 new immigrants from Ethiopia landed at Ben-Gurion Airport. This is the first group of Ethiopian immigrants to arrive in Israel since Operation Solomon. The remaining 2,600 Jews left in Ethiopia will be brought to Israel in small groups over the next six months.

Two U.S. senators who met with the new Ethiopian president several weeks ago brought about the breakthrough in the renewal of Jewish emigration from Ethiopia.

The issue was finalized last week by Israel's Ambassador Asher Na'im and the heads of the Ethiopian Administration. [passage omitted]

At this stage, the Jews are being flown to Leonardo da Vinci Airport in Rome, from where they are transported to Israel aboard El Al planes. The group that landed here yesterday afternoon was taken to a Jewish Agency absorption center. It is believed that another small group will arrive in Israel in a day or two. [passage omitted]

Netanyahu, CSFR Counterpart on Syrian Tanks

TA1509201791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu held a meeting in his office with his Czechoslovak counterpart. He demanded that the CSFR reconsider its decision to supply Syria with hundreds of advanced tanks. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that the CSFR official explained that the deal stems from unemployment difficulties, not from foreign policy considerations.

Return of Additional Gaza Refugees Rejected

TA1609145591 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 16 Sep 91 p 4

[Report by Betzal'el 'Amiqam]

[Text] The UN Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA] has appealed to Israel to absorb 40,000 Palestinians, residents of the Gaza Strip, who became refugees as a result of the Gulf war.

Israel has so far absorbed about 30,000 Palestinians who worked in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and returned to their homes in the West Bank, as well as another 7,000 Palestinians who returned to their homes in the Gaza Strip.

MK [Knesset Member] Mikha'el Zohar, representative of the Israeli delegation to the refugees conference in Paris, has rejected the appeal, arguing that it refers to Gaza Strip residents who left their homes prior to the Six-Day War. Bar-Zohar mentioned that the Egyptian Government refused to grant them passports at the time.

According to UNRWA data, Jordan has absorbed 150,000 Palestinian refugees from the Gulf states who had to leave the Gulf region in the wake of the war.

Secretary of State Baker Arrives 19 Sep

JN1909101191 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1000 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived in Amman this afternoon for talks with His Majesty King Husayn and high ranking Jordanian officials on the current peace efforts in the Middle East and convening a peace conference including all the parties concerned.

Secretary Baker was met at the airport by Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur and a number of officials. The U.S. secretary of state was accompanied by assistant secretary of state for Middle East Affairs, Mr. John Kelly; the director of Policy Planning at the U.S. State department, Mr. Dennis Ross; and a number of senior American officials. Talks between the American and Jordanian sides will be held this afternoon.

Prime Minister Working on Cabinet Reshuffle

JN1909055191 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19-20 Sep 91 pp 1,5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri has started work on a government reshuffle intended at consolidating the cabinet's position in anticipation of Jordan attending the proposed Middle East peace conference between Arab states and Israel, informed sources said Wednesday.

Mr. al-Masri has already held private meetings with several cabinet members who might have to quit or be replaced before negotiations start, either in October or soon afterwards. Those ministers targetted for change include technocrats, but the prime minister's emphasis appears to be directed at the political members of the cabinet whose position remains unclear vis-a-vis the peace process, according to the sources. The change is not expected to include any members of Parliament who already hold cabinet posts.

"Some ministers have given the premier their full support but there are others who expressed reservations over their ability to withstand public pressures which may arise when the peace talks begin," one of the sources said. The sources also said that the reshuffle is expected to produce a cabinet that is more representative of the different blocs in the Lower House of Parliament to ensure a more solid and consistent support for the government's policies.

Mr. al-Masri, who heads a loose coalition of technocrats, leftists and establishment groups, is expected to put together a more stable and stronger government by incorporating Parliament members from the Constitution Bloc which has grown to be the second largest bloc in the House with 18 members.

The prime minister, who is himself a deputy and member of the National Bloc, already has the full support of his bloc in Parliament and largely that of the Democratic Bloc, which has five serving ministers in the cabinet.

The Democratic Bloc, the nucleus parliamentary group of the Jordan Arab National Democratic Alliance (JANDA), has not yet taken a decision to remain in government if Jordan joins the peace talks. While some leaders of JANDA want to pull out of the government if and when peace talks start, the majority appears ready to remain in the cabinet provided the Palestine Liberation Organistation (PLO) and the Palestinians go along with American-led peace efforts.

The Constitution Bloc appears to be ready to discuss participating in a reshuffled cabinet, but sources within the bloc say they have not yet been approached by al-Masri.

The reshuffle and the probable inclusion of members of the Constitution Bloc could affect the House speakership race within the Lower House, which is due to reconvene in October or November. The speakership's contest will conversely affect the reshuffle itself.

The Nationalist Bloc, of which Mr. al-Masri is a member, recently elected Sulayman 'Arar as its candidate for speakership, while the Constitution Bloc has named its leader Dhuqan al-Hindawi as a contender for the same post.

It is widely believed in the Constitution Bloc that Mr. 'Arar should withdraw in favour of Mr. al-Hindawi because the latter's bloc helped Mr. al-Masri win the necessary edge in the confidence vote session in July although it was not consulted on the make-up of the government.

Informed sources said they believed the Constitution Bloc would ask for six cabinet posts from about ten that sources expect will be vacated in the forthcoming reshuffle. But sources within the bloc say that they would want to study the cause of the reshuffle before making a final decision.

Mr. al-Masri's prime concern, sources maintain, is to strengthen his government by bringing in more Parliament members who are willing to risk pressures which may arise in the course of peace negotiations with Israel as well as deal with the increasing economic pressures internally. Some sources add that the premier will use the reshuffle to remove ministers on whom the Lower House expressed reservations during the confidence session.

'Diplomatic Sources' Report on Peace Progress

JN1909095791 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 19 Sep 91 pp 1, 21

[By Caroline Faraj and news agencies]

[Excerpts] Amman/capitals—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will today arrive in Amman from Damascus. He will hold talks with His Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials concerning the latest developments in efforts to convene the peace conference.

High-level diplomatic sources have asserted to AL-RA'Y that the U.S. Administration has informed the heads of states taking part in the peace conference of the date on which the conference will be convened. The date was agreed on during Baker's recent visit to the Soviet Union, which cosponsors the invitation, and has been set for the period 28 to 29 October.

The sources asserted that the venue has not yet been specified because the U.S. and Soviet parties have not yet agreed on it. They pointed out that contacts continue between the two countries to agree on a final venue. [passage omitted]

Jordan is expecting to receive today from the U.S. secretary a letter of intent, which, it has been learned, is signed by the U.S. Administration and addressed to all parties involved in, and taking part in the peace conference. High-level sources expect the letter of intent or assurances to contain in writing the answers Baker has given verbally to Jordan during his five [as published] previous tours.

The sources explained that in the previous tours, Jordan had asked Baker if he is still committed to what U.S. President Bush announced on 6 April 1991, regarding the application of Resolutions 242 and 338, the principle of land for peace, the Palestinian people's legitimate political rights, secure and recognized borders for all states in the region, and demilitarization by all parties in a balanced way. Baker said he was.

Jordan has also asked the U.S. secretary of state if he is still committed to his previous statements in which he said that all territories occupied after 4 June 1967 war are considered occupied territories, and that he does not recognize their annexation to Israel, particularly in the case of the Golan Heights; and whether Jerusalem will be treated like the Golan Heights or not. Baker's verbal answer was yes: Jerusalem is an occupied territory and we do not recognize its annexation to Israel. We, as a U.S. Administration, affirm and acknowledge that it is difficult to accept the division of Jerusalem, but, still, it is not part of Israel.

Jordan also asked Baker if the issue of Jerusalem will be on the conference agenda and stressed that the right to Palestinian representation is a natural right for the Palestinians, and not for anyone else. Baker said that the issue of Jerusalem will not be discussed in the conference, or raised in the invitations to attend the conference. Jerusalem, he said, will be temporarily excluded. He also said Palestinians can decide on their demand to the right of repatriation or reparations, and that it is incorrect to interfere in the nomination of the Palestinian delegation as Palestinians alone have the right to nominate their delegation.

Baker's dialogue with the Jordanian side is expected to concentrate on the basic points for the conference.

His Majesty King Husayn and U.S. Secretary of State Baker will hold a news conference before the latter's departure to brief the media on what the two parties had achieved to facilitate the peace process and the convening of the conference. [passage omitted]

In Cairo, PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, has said the Palestinian delegation—comprising Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi—which met with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is in its way to Tunis to brief the Palestinian leadership on the outcome of its talks with the U.S. official. This is the first time a visit by Palestinian officials from inside the occupied territories to the PLO's headquarters in Tunis has been announced.

It is worth mentioning that Faysal al-Husayni has been in London since Tuesday. He met there with senior officials in the British Foreign Office and held talks yesterday with 'Afif Safiyah, PLO representative in London. [Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic at 0400 GMT on 19 September reports that: "In Tunis, an official spokesman for the PLO yesterday categorically denied that two Palestinian officials from the occupied territories are on their way to the PLO headquarters in Tunis. The PALESTINIAN NEWS AGENCY—WAFA cites the spokesman as saying these reports are absolutely unfounded. According to Palestinian sources in Tunis, Faysal al- Husayni, one of the Palestinian negotiators in the current discussions to prepare for the peace conference, is still in London, where he is scheduled to consult with Palestinian figures and meet with British officials. The same sources confirmed that the two other members of the Palestinian delegation—Hanan 'Ashrawi and Zakariya al-Agha—are still in the occupied territories."] [passage omitted]

Diplomats based in Cairo have said that Israel has agreed in principle to the participation of Palestinian delegates from the villages of al-'Ayzariyah and Abu Dis, which are located within Jerusalem, in a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the proposed talks. Israel insists on excluding Arabs from East Jerusalem from the peace conference, cosponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union. The two mentioned villages, however, are outside the administrative limits, which Israel has specified for the city.

A diplomat said this proposal seems acceptable to the Arab and Israeli sides in order to start the talks. He added that it is a solution which may succeed and is currently being discussed here, and there are some positive signs. However, the diplomat did not mention names of leaders from the two villages who may be included in the delegation.

Among those born in Abu Dis is 'Ali Abu-Hilal, a Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] leader, whom Israel last week allowed to return from exile in exchange for the body of a soldier held by

the DFLP. His return raised expectations that he might join a delegation holding talks with Baker, which is led by Faysal al-Husayni. Al-Husayni may be excluded from the peace conference if the Israeli conditions are met.

The London-based AL-HAYAH, however, last Monday cited 'Ali Abu-Hilal as saying that although he may take part in the talks if he was asked to do so, he would not accept to be an alternative to the representation of Jerusalem residents.

Palestinian sources said that among the other leaders from the two villages who may take part in the talks are Sa'id 'Urayqat, a columnist from Abu Dis; and Fadwa al-Labadi and Tamir al-'Isawi and his sister, Fadwa, from al-'Ayzariyah.

WAFA cites PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas as saying the PLO's decision will be announced on 28 September during the Palestine National Council session, scheduled to begin in Algiers five days earlier. [passage omitted]

King Confers With UK Official on Peace Process

JN1809190091 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon Patrick Fairweather, deputy under secretary of state for Middle Eastern and African affairs at the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

His majesty and the British official exchanged views on the latest developments in the peace process in the Middle East.

The meeting was attended by the British ambassador in Amman.

Iranian Official Leaves for Damascus 17 Sep

JN1709190391 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Mohammad Kazem Asadi-Khonsari, Iranian Foreign Ministry adviser and director of the Middle East and North Africa Department of the Iranian Foreign Ministry, left Amman for Damascus via al-Ramthah border point this evening following a three-day working visit to Jordan. During the visit he conveyed a message to His Majesty King Husayn from his Excellency Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani on bilateral relations and the entire situation in the region. [passage omitted]

Editors Respond to Torture Report Charges

JN1809083591 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Sep 91 pp 1,5

["Special" to the JORDAN TIMES by Sana' 'Atiyah]

[Text] Amman—A long-running tug of war between Islamist deputies and local newspapers over press coverage of parliamentary activities came to a head this week when a prominent member of the Lower House charged that editors had deliberately spiked a report his parliamentary group had prepared and distributed to the press for publication.

Layth Shubaylat, an independent Islamist, and Muslim Brotherhood members have for some time now accused the press of bias in handling their activities and demands. Newspaper editors, however, maintain that their coverage of Parliament has been objective and fair.

This week, the feud reached a climax when Mr. Shubaylat accused the editors of deliberately ignoring a report released by the Lower House's Public Freedom Committee, of which he is a member, alleging ill-treatment and torture of security detainees.

During a press conference he held at his office on Saturday, Mr. Shubaylat accused the papers of bias and called on journalists to "fight" for greater press freedoms and objectivity.

The report in question, which was issued and distributed by the parliamentary committee on the final day of Parliament's extraordinary session on Sept. 2 gave a detailed account of alleged abuses and torture against detainees by security forces based on interviews with a number of men who were recently detained and later released.

The justifications for not publishing the report cited by editors of the major dailies varies, ranging from lack of knowledge about the release of the report to editorial policy and political reasons.

Hashim Khraysat, editor-in-chief of Sawt al-Sha'b Arabic daily and president of the Jordan Press Association, said he did not receive in time a copy of the report, which was distributed to the press and deputies on the last day of the extraordinary session.

"I did not know of this report until I saw it published in Al-Ribat (weekly) and when the minister of interior issued his statement," Mr. Khraysat told the Jordan Times. Al-Rabat is the Muslim Brotherhood mouthpiece, which was the only publication to print the entire text of the report.

Interior Minister Jawdat al-Subul had issued a statement on Wednesday categorically denying that torture took place in the detention centres and his statement was published in the three Arab dailies.

Mr. Shubaylat, however, insisted that torture had taken place against those who were detained. He said that members of the Public Freedom Committee had interviewed the men who had been released, and that a number of those who were still detained were not permitted visits by the deputies, their families or lawyers.

He was referring to 18 members of an underground Islamist group calling itself "(Prophet) Muhammad's Army."

"As far as I'm personally concerned, I had no idea about this report, and it would have been journalistically wrong to publish it after it had already been published elsewhere," Mr. Khraysat explained.

Mr. Shubaylat called on the press to "side with the truth, the interest of the people, the law, the Constitution, and the resolutions and recommendations of the Lower House which represents the people," and to struggle towards greater independence by the press in line with democratic freedoms allowed to it.

"It is the duty of journalists to struggle for the sake of liberating their professions from control in order to raise their standard to become a monitoring authority that serves the people," Mr. Shubaylat said.

Musa al-Kilani, chief editor of Al-Dustur daily dismissed Mr. Shubaylat's accusation and said that his newspaper did in fact publish an article on the Freedoms Committee's report.

"We published the main parts of the report, but not the points related to '(Prophet) Muhammad's Army,'" Dr. al-Kilani told the Jordan Times, referring to the group that had allegedly taken part in terrorist acts which included car-bombings that handicapped two people.

"The points in the report related to the group are being discussed in the courts of law and it is a court procedure that should not be reported in the press," Dr. al-Kilani said, adding that writing about a case in court could influence the final verdict.

Al-Dustur's article did not mention the Public Freedoms Panel's allegations of torture nor the alleged illegal practices committed by security forces. The paper, however, did report the committee's call for the director of the General Intelligence Department (GID) to supply the speakers of the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament with the report that he sends daily to the prime minister.

Both Sawt Al-Sha'b and Al-Dustur, however, reported on Mr. Shubaylat's press conference and quoted from his attacks against the press.

Commenting on the controversy, Al-Dustur columnist Munis al-Razzaz wrote in Sunday's edition that it was necessary to have access to truth when two sides claim contradicting statements.

"There must be an opportunity for our press to find the essence of truth concerning the human rights situation in our country in order to remove any darkness or distortion regarding this serious issue that should not be ignored," Mr. al-Razzaz wrote.

In his Monday column, the same writer called on the government to permit journalists and lawyers to visit detention centres so that "we can know the truth of what happens behind these gates."

Al-Ra'y, the Arabic daily with the biggest circulation in Jordan, neither mentioned the Freedoms Committee report, nor reported on Mr. Shubaylat's press conference later on.

Chief Editor Mahmud Al-Kayid said that an independent editorial decision was taken not to publish because the committee's report was controversial at best, adding that it was not due to government pressure that his newspaper did not use it.

Mr. al-Kayid said that because there were divisions inside the freedoms committee itself concerning the allegations and that nearly half of the panel's members did not endorse it, the report lacked the credibility and needed further investigation before a balanced story could be published.

"We are not committed to publishing everything that Parliament or deputies say and do especially when it is controversial," he said. "And generally speaking, the decision to publish or not is ours in the end," he continued.

Other journalistic sources at al-Ra'y, who have been following the story, contended that the Freedoms Committee, which comprises a large number of the Muslim Brotherhood and Islamists, might have wanted to use the report in question as a political tool to attract public attention and gain popularity and publicity.

The sources, who did not want to identified by name [as published], said that not all of the 11 committee members actually signed the document, leaving doubt in their minds about the credibility and accuracy of the allegations contained in it.

According to one source, some of the member deputies rarely attended the usual committee meetings, but "had suddenly shown interest in this particular issue regarding these security detainees for their own political gains."

"Where were the deputies who care so much about human rights in Jordan before this story of '(Prophet) Muhammad's Army' came onto the scene?" asked one of the journalists at al-Ra'y.

The Jordan Times also refrained from publishing the details of the detainees' treatment because it wanted a statement from the GID to react to the report when it appeared. However, the paper did publish a Reuter report on both the reaction statement and the committee's allegations.

"We wanted to print a balanced story on such a serious issue, but we did not have any statements from the side that was accused. When we received it, we published the story (Reuter's) in a more balanced way," Chief Editor Hawatimah said. "Hardly a day or two afterwards, we wrote an editorial on the subject and called for an independent investigation into the whole issue."

Kamal Rashid, chief of al-Ribat, which carried the full text of the report, said that obtacles had been put in front of the issue which had carried the parliamentary committee's report.

Last week's issue of al-Ribat was delayed for one day because the Press and Publications Department was slow in approving the distribution of the tabloid, Mr. Rashid told reporters during Mr. Shubaylat's press conference on Saturday.

He said that he intended to place paid ads in two major dailies apologising to their readers for the delay in the distribution because the Press and Publications Department had not yet approved its entry into the Jordanian market. Al-Ribat is not yet licensed to publish in Jordan, and as such it is based offshore.

"The chief editors rejected publishing the ads in its original context and asked us to write that the paper was delayed due to reasons beyond our control, and we did," Mr. Rashid said.

He added that when the Ministry of Information called the following day to announce there approval, "they expressed their dissatisfaction for placing the advertisement even in its mild form."

Some journalists say that although the government does not interfere with what the papers do or do not publish, the publishers themselves find it difficult to take advantage of the democratic process in Jordan.

"Times have changed and their are serious attempts towards democratisation, but we have to remember that the majority of shares of these newspapers are still owned by the government," said a senior editorial assistant at one of the major dailies who did not want to be identified.

"And we have to remember that the publishers and editors in chief are the same ones who were in charge before the democratisation process, and are afraid of utilising their freedom, so they still take editorial decisions as though they were still living during the days of oppression," he added. These charges are generally dismissed as nonsense by the editors who insist that freeom of speech does not necessarily involve publishing everything that is said or done in the country. "Many people confuse the right to withhold publication of a certain story with the responsibility that goes with publishing it," said Mr. al-Kayid. "The issue goes way beyond what some of our honourable deputies believe to be the truth."

Mr. al-Razzaz referred to this argument in his Monday column, where he wrote that there were still "undemocratic signs and mentalities and schools of thought in places of influence that are still affected by the predemocratic phase."

Mr. Shubaylat charged that the democratic winds blowing into Jordan were "decorative and superficial."

"I have been a member of Parliament since 1984, and nothing in the press has changed since then," Mr. Shubaylat told reporters. "This is a decorative and superficial democracy which has not changed the reality of our situation; the power centres that still administer and run the country are still there."

Baker's Mission, 'U.S. Seriousness' Viewed

JN1909110391 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Sep 91 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Jordan in Baker's Seventh Tour"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is scheduled to arrive in Amman today winding up his seventh Middle East tour. Despite all existing obstacles placed by Israel, there is optimism that new major progress toward a just and comprehensive peace might be achieved.

Secretary Baker is persistently trying to render his complicated diplomatic mission a success—something we praise him for. He will, undoubtedly, find here, as he found in the brotherly Arab countries he visited during his successive seven tours, understanding, openness, and genuine willingness to do everything that would facilitate the U.S.-led peace process and render it a success.

We receive James Baker with this positive spirit because we sense unprecedented U.S. seriousness and political insistence on seizing the opportunity to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East. All previous U.S. peace plans to settle the historic conflict in this region lacked such seriousness and determination.

Perhaps U.S. President George Bush's position on the loan guarantees Israel requested to absorb immigrant Soviet Jews is the best evidence of the seriousness of the U.S. Administration this time, especially that we find in this presidential U.S. position a conclusive sign that Washington will employ all its formidable energies to render its Middle East peace plan a success.

If we add this position to the general principles for peace in the region as announced by President Bush in his speech before the Congress in March, we will immediately find ourselves before a new U.S. situation, different from what we have experienced in the past. The successive U.S. administrations used to back down on their declared commitments whenever signs of any dispute with Israel and its strong allies in the Congress loomed in the air.

As he concludes his seventh Middle East tour, we hope to hear from Baker what makes us more confident that the current U.S. diplomatic activity will overcome the continuous Israeli obstacles to peace, and what gives us more hope that the efforts the United States has been making for several months will bear fruit; namely a just and comprehensive settlement derived from the principles of international legitimacy and based on the resolutions of the Security Council and the UN General Assembly.

U.S. Urged To Resist Israeli 'Tactics'

JN1909053991 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19-20 Sep 91 p 4

[Editorial: "More Than Money At Stake"]

[Text] There is more than meets the eye in the test of wills between U.S. President George Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and the Jewish lobbyists. Obviously the implications of the confrontation between the U.S. and Israel are far reaching and go beyond the $10 billion loan guarantees, themselves. What lies at the centre of the raging storm is the administration's resolve to crack once and perhaps for all the Zionist grip on the decision-making process in Washington. This Israeli syndrome had taken a heavy toll on the national interests of the U.S. already, and it is only natural that one day the American people would move to put an end to this disproportionate power that Israel and its supporters and apologists enjoy in the U.S. with 85 percent of the American people supporting their president on this issue, Mr. Bush can effectively call the shots.

From the Arab point of view and in the context of the ongoing U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's peace mission to the Middle East, the tug-of-war between Messrs. Bush and Shamir puts the resolve and ability of the U.S. to broker peace in the region to the ultimate test. Should President Bush bow to Israeli intimidations and Jewish threats, he would send the unmistakable signal that in the final analysis he would not be able to deliver on his pledge to bring his nation's prestige to bear on the course of events in this area.

The euphoria and optimism generated already by the clear will of President Bush not to let himself be cowed as so many American presidents had done in the past, however, cannot be sustained if there is humiliating compromise in the pipeline. The current talk about a six-point compromise formula to end the deadlock makes the Arabs feel somewhat uncomfortable and insecure, since such a scenario might become the wrong model for Arab-Israeli talks themselves. The Arab side certainly does not want to compromise over principles contained in U.N. resolutions, upon which these talks will be based, nor would we want to see the Americans reach compromises with the Israelis over them should the talks become deadlocked.

Likewise, there would be no comfort in the idea of linking the loan guarantees just to freezing the settlement programme in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. One has to be utterly naive not to comprehend that a simple accounting manipulation can satisfy such a transient objective while at the same time diverting funds to the continuous settlement construction on Arab lands. Who is to check if the billions acquired through the sought loans would not release funds from Israel's state budget earmarked for other purposes to service the Israeli colonisation campaign? Besides, why trade money for something which has already been declared by th U.S. and others as inherently illegal and contrary to international law especially the fourth Geneva Convention? This is nothing but extortion and intimidation on the part of the Israelis and their supporters.

On the eve of Mr. Baker's seventh trip to the region and his sixth to Jordan, we call on the U.S. president and his secretary of state to cement their resolve and stand firm in the face of Israeli tactics to undermine every American effort to establish peace and stability in the area. Only such determination and exercise of political will could save the day for the parties concerned and strengthen the confidence of everybody, including Israelis, in American seriousness and even-handedness. Leaving the fate of peace to Mr. Shamir and like-minded Israeli leaders would simply not do as the loss of so many opportunities in the past has demonstrated time and again.

*Leaflets: Journalists Accept Iraqi Bribes

91AE0614A

[Editorial Report] The London-based, Arabic-language daily newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT published a report on 9 September from its Amman bureau describing the proliferation of underground facsimile leaflets in the Jordanian capital of Amman, and claiming that many of them accuse Jordanian journalists of accepting Iraqi bribes. The article states that these unattributed secret leaflets "name journalists and authors who appear to bear allegiance to Jordan, but secretly bear allegiance to the Iraqi Ba'th Party to the extent that they, for example, accept luxury cars as gifts from the Iraqi president for their allegiance to an Arab country other than the country whose citizenship they carry, and live a life of luxury through his beneficence, while claiming to be faithful soldiers of their king."

The article states that facsimile leaflets first appeared two years ago during the deputies election, and were used to attack the integrity of certain candidates. Then, after the Gulf crisis, they are reported to have criticized "those who are not loyal to Jordan" and "are pushing Jordan to the brink of an abyss through their support for the Iraqi position...." The authors of the leaflets attribute tense relations between Jordan and "its Arab brothers" to "those who have an interest in this," and attack "the leftists and nationalist pretenders who spread corruption in Jordan." Some of the leaflets have also reportedly criticized the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, while stating their support for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The article says that these leaflets have received widespread distribution via facsimile throughout "companies, institutions, and government offices" in Amman, and continue to be issued on an almost daily basis to an eager following.

Beirut Radio Reports 'Imminent' Hostage Release

NC1809110591 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1050 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] We just received an urgent report by REUTER about the imminent release of a Western hostage within hours.

The IRNA report says that a Western hostage in Lebanon will be freed within hours. Citing informed sources in Beirut, the agency said the hostage may be former British pilot Jack Mann, 77, who was abducted in Beirut in May 1989. The agency added that the retired British pilot has a better chance to be freed than the other Western hostages.

Hizballah Denies Involvement

NC1809122091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Citing IRNA, REUTER News Agency reported that one of the Western hostages held in Lebanon may be released in the next few hours. Sources expect that British national Jack Mann may be released. A Hizballah source told Voice of the Mountain radio that Hizballah has nothing to do with this issue.

Release After Baker Departure

NC1909094091 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0920 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Political sources report that hostage Jack Mann will likely be released after U.S. Secretary of State James Baker leaves the Syrian capital to avoid the impression that Washington is involved in the hostage release.

A fundamentalist Islamic source said that Mann will be freed within hours, stressing that that this could be the last Western hostage release unless Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd is among a group of Arab prisoners Israel is expected to release shortly.

Other reports indicate that the British medical team, which arrived in Cyprus, may leave for Damascus. Damascus is where hostage Jack Mann has been taken to be freed.

Release Said 'Postponed'

NC1909103791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] An informed source has told AFP that British hostage Jack Mann's release has been postponed for at least 24 hours for reasons concerning arrangements of his departure.

Israeli Withdrawal 'Focal Point' of U.S. Visit

NC1909124991 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami attended the "Lebanon on the Path to Reconstruction" seminar organized by the international information organization at the Bristol Hotel at 0900 today. [passage omitted]

Karami addressed the seminar, saying:

[Begin Karami recording] Gentlemen, I do not think that I need to elaborate on Lebanon's ordeal and the suffering that the Lebanese people went through for 16 years, because I am sure you are aware of all these developments and ramifications. Everyone near and far realizes that Lebanon was a victim of regional and international conflict in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

What remains first and foremost is the issue of southern Lebanon, the bleeding wound in Lebanon's body. We will not rest as long as the Israeli enemy continues to occupy our land in the south, particularly since Security Council Resolution 425 passed in 1978, which provides for the prompt and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory, has not been implemented 13 years after its issuance. We are exerting the utmost diplomatic efforts to implement this resolution. It is natural that this issue should be the focal point in our upcoming visit to the United Nations and in our meetings with senior U.S. officials. [passage omitted]

Amal, Hizballah Clash; Army Intervenes

NC1909085391 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Security reports from the south indicate that personnel from the Amal Movement and Hizballah exchanged fire in Kafr Tibnit last night. An Army unit intervened, made some arrests, and confiscated three weapons. The report did not mention any casualties.

U.S. Secretary of State Baker Continues Visit

Meets al-Asad; To Continue Contacts

JN1909050891 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and his delegation yesterday afternoon. The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. The talks dealt with the peace process in the region, efforts and contacts to hold a Middle East peace conference, and the phases reached so far in these efforts. It was agreed to continue contacts between the two sides.

Joint News Conference With al-Shar'

JN1909061391 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker held a joint news conference last night. The conference was attended by the U.S. ambassador in Damascus, the media delegation accompanying Mr. Baker, correspondents of Arab and world news agencies and television networks, and Syrian journalists and media men.

Early in the conference, Mr. Baker said: We have just concluded about six hours of talks with President Hafiz al-Asad in the presence of Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. We had a good evening and a good meeting, and we made some progress concerning the peace process. We found common denominators among the concerned parties, and we submitted a letter of assurances to the Syrian side.

Mr. Baker added: I expect that we will hold further talks this morning, Thursday, but President Hafiz al-Asad will see off a head of state and receive another today. Therefore, I and my colleague, Mr. al-Shar', may have a chance to continue the talks today. He added: We discussed the hostages affair and the situation in Iraq in addition to issues related to the peace process.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' then said: The talks Mr. Baker held with President Hafiz al-Asad were useful, productive, and positive. He added: I think that both countries, Syria and the United States, have expressed their determination to proceed with the peace process and the convening of the conference next month, as proposed.

Asked to give more details about the assurances, Mr. Baker said: I would rather refer the question to Mr. al-Shar', but I would like to explain that the assurances we give to a party do not contradict with the assurances we give to the other parties to the peace process. Before an agreement on the formula of these assurances was reached, several meetings between Syrian and U.S. Government officials had been held, and there was an exchange of letters between Presidents al-Asad and Bush. In this letter of assurances, we underline what we have already pledged and taken upon ourselves, as expressed in those meetings and exchanged letters.

Asked whether Syria supports the return of U.S. forces to Saudi Arabia, Mr. Baker answered: We discussed Iraq's noncompliance with UN resolutions during the meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad. We also discussed this issue with President Husni Mubarak and the Saudi envoy to the United Nations. I am not going to define the reactions of every government; I leave this to governments concerned. Baker added: I think the world community is still serious about the need for Iraq to comply with the Security Council resolutions.

Asked about the possibility of the alliance taking a joint action against Iraq, Baker said: I do not want to go further than what I have said. Two hours ago, the U.S. President made a statement about the need for an emergency force, and so did the secretary of defense. We are not going to talk about the details of the emergency plan.

Asked whether Syria supports this, Mr. al-Shar' said: We support the UN resolutions on Iraq. Asked about Syria's position if Iraq refuses to comply with the Security Council resolutions, Mr. al- Shar' said: The Iraqis say that they are observing these resolutions, but they sometimes linger in implementing them.

Asked whether the U.S. assurances include Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and the other occupied territories, Mr. al-Shar' said: Secretary Baker gave us a draft letter of assurances from the U.S. Administration. We have not yet studied this letter, and we told Mr. Baker that we will study it in depth and keep in touch with him to inform him of the exact Syrian position.

Asked about the discussions on hostages, Mr. Baker said: President Hafiz al-Asad pointed out that he and the Syrian Government will do their best to help obtain the release of the hostages without conditions. He will keep us informed in case of any developments.

Mr. Baker was asked: Does the letter of assurances given to Israel make any reference to former President Ford's letter in 1975, which included some assurances that Israel would not withdraw from all the Golan Heights? Baker said: This is not very accurate. We have discussed this in full. We have discussed the paragraph in Ford's letter to which you refer. We have also discussed it during our discussions with Israel.

Baker added: I think the Syrian Government understands that. I would like to say there will not be any contradictions in the assurances given to the various parties. We will not give contradictory assurances.

Here, al-Shar' said: As we have always said, and this was confirmed by the U.S. Administration, the basis for the solution are UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Here, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that Resolution 242 stipulates the inadmissibility of the

acquisition of territories by war. This means that, in the final settlement, Israel must withdraw from all occupied Arab territories. Al-Shar' added: The Golan Heights are an indivisible part of Syrian territories and must be returned to Syria if peace is to be achieved in this region.

On his part, Mr. Baker said: Let me go into more details about this issue because someone here has asked me about the letter of assurances. One of the things which we included in the letter was to reconfirm the United States' position that, from the U.S. viewpoint, Resolutions 242 and 338 must be applied on all fronts. This does not only apply to the West Bank and Gaza, but also to the Golan. We are prepared to declare once again the U.S. policy as regards the nonrecognition of the application of Israeli laws on the Golan. This is the sort of thing we talked about in this letter.

Mr. Baker pointed out that he gave important assurances to Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, and the Palestinians.

Mr. Baker added: We are very concerned not to have any contradictions in those assurances because this will not lead to a satisfactory result if the parties sit for negotiations.

Here, al-Shar' said: I would like to add something to what Mr. Baker said. Syria would not recognize any secret letters given to Israel. Any secret letter must be known to the other party. These letters must not contradict our understanding and view of the basis for the solution; namely, the application of Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace.

Mr. al-Shar' warned that any contradiction with this understanding is unacceptable.

Answering a question on aid to Israel, Mr. Baker said: The situation in the United States is still the same. We have asked to defer the guarantees for 120 days only in order to give peace a chance. We have the right to know and ask how would this aid and these guarantees be used.

Answering a question on the link between the U.S. credibility and the peace process, and whether there will be an eighth tour of the region, Mr. Baker said: I do not know if there will be an eighth tour or not. But the United States wishes to go with the peace process as far as the other parties wish to go. We cannot be more interested in peace than the parties concerned themselves. All we can do is to boost the peace process, which we are seriously trying to build, and in which we have achieved a tangible progress now. We will continue to work with it, taking into consideration that we cannot go beyond what the parties concerned want.

On his part, Mr. al-Shar' said: In two interviews with the U.S. NEWSWEEK and THE WASHINGTON POST, President al-Asad said one of the factors that encouraged Syria to accept U.S. President Bush's initiative was the seriousness shown by the U.S. Administration to achieve a comprehensive and just settlement in the region. Therefore, the delay in giving the loan guarantees by President Bush is a true reflection of the U.S. Administration's seriousness in achieving peace in the region.

On a question related to what the Syrian Government's position would be if the United States of America gives the loans to Israel, al-Shar' said: One can deduce that if the United States gives these loans, this would certainly put a major obstacle before peace.

Mr. Baker was asked if the U.S. Government would deal with the loans issue in isolation from the peace process, he said: We have clearly explained the U.S. viewpoint; namely, that the settlement activities are an obstacle to peace. The time to deal with this issue, as well as other issues, will be during the conference. This is the policy we plan to pursue in the proposed peace conference.

Concludes Visit, Departs 19 Sep

JN1909091191 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Damascus, 19 Sep (SANA)—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, Mrs. Baker, and the accompanying delegation left Damascus at 1115 today following a two-day visit to Syria, during which he was received by President Hafiz al-Asad. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Mrs. al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Christopher Ross, and the embassy staff.

Al-Shar' on Peace Conference, Talks in Germany

PM1809113291 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Sep 91 p 3

[Ahmad Kamal Hamdi report: "Al-Shar' Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: 'This Is Why Syria Agreed to Peace Conference'"]

[Text] Bonn, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' emphasized that Syria, which is seeking to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on international legitimacy and UN resolutions, will not concede a single inch of Arab territory. He stated this in an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT after his arrival in Bonn on a three-day official visit. He also emphasized that Syria is fully aware of Israel's expansionist and aggressive intentions.

Al-Shar' added that the Arabs should emerge victorious from this battle with the restoration of their legitimate rights. He said that Israel is now isolated in the international community, even from its closest friends and allies, which confirms the victory march for the Arabs.

The Western states and the United States, he said, must expose Israel's true nature, and it is on this basis that Syria agreed to participate in the international peace conference. It can now see whether the world is sincere about achieving a just world order. He emphasized that Israel is now placing several obstacles in the way of

convening the international conference and is trying to raise formal issues in this regard, concerning the form of the conference, Palestinian representation, the members of the Arab delegation, the representation of Arab Jerusalem—which, together with the other Arab territories, must return to the Arabs—and its insistence on special interpretations of UN resolutions, and first and foremost, Resolution 242.

With regard to the aims of his current official visit to Bonn at the head of a large Syrian delegation, Minister al-Shar' said that the visit was taking place on the invitation of German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and that he will have talks with him on several major issues, and first and foremost, the peace process, convening the international conference on peace in the Middle East, and Germany's and Europe's role in that conference. This is in addition to discussing the international conference and the new developments that have emerged in this regard, as well as developments in the Middle East region, bilateral Syrian-German relations, and ways of enhancing and developing them in various fields.

The minister added that Syria attaches special importance to the relations binding it to Germany, because of Germany's important role, especially after the establishment of German union, since it can play an important and major role equal to its growing status, especially with regard to the Middle East issue and the issues of the hour.

On Germany's role in this regard the Syrian foreign minister pointed out that after the restoration of its unity Germany can play a role equal to its economic and political status in order to convene the Middle East peace conference. And Germany will make important contributions to the process of establishing the desired peace.

Minister al-Shar' added that the Arabs have no particular sensitivities toward the German people, as is the case with the other European states, because Germany has no colonialist past in the world or in the Middle East region, which increases its influence in the Arab world and the region.

The Syrian minister said that he will discuss with German officials several important issues, including the peace conference, the Arab Israeli conflict, and the European role in the conference. He added that he will meet during his visit to Bonn with FRG President Richard Weizsaecker, the economy minister, the economic cooperation minister, the speaker of the German parliament, representatives of the German political parties, and senior FRG officials. He added that there is special interest on both the Syrian and the German sides in strengthening mutual relations. He expressed his hope that his talks in the German capital would lead to tangible progress in bilateral relations between the two countries.

The Syrian foreign minister is accompanied by a large delegation comprising the foreign minister's assistant Yusuf Shukur, the planning minister's assistant Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim Subay'i, and a number of senior Syrian Foreign Ministry officials.

U.S. 'Deterrent Measures' Against Israel Needed

JN1809100091 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 18 Sep 91

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-THAWRAH newspaper says: There is no doubt that the feverish, organized, and hysterical escalation of the Zionist campaign against the U.S. Administration and its stand on giving guarantees for settlement-building loans is significant now that the peace conference is getting closer and U.S. Secretary James Baker has begun his seventh tour. This escalation shows that Israel is not concerned about the peace process.

AL-THAWRAH says: Until the contrary is proven, the international community, particularly the United States, has duties and commitments. The international community should expeditiously take deterrent measures to champion peace, prevent Israel from tampering with security in the region and world peace, make it respect international legitimacy and its resolutions, and return all the Arabs' lands and the rights.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Everybody should know that we, the Arabs—in our approach and endeavor toward peace—will not give up, surrender, or relinquish an iota of land and rights under any circumstances or force.

Afghanistan

Resistance Group President Invited to Moscow

BK1909072891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0722 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 19 (AFP)—The Soviet Union has invited an Afghan resistance delegation to Moscow for the first time since the beginning of the Afghan conflict, a Soviet Embassy spokesman said here Thursday.

An invitation had been extended "recently" to the president of the Afghan Government in exile, Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, based in Pakistan, spokesman Vladimir Ivanov told AFP, adding that the invitation had been accepted.

The visit is expected to take place "within a month" Ivanov said, adding that it would be up to the resistance to decide who would be included in the delegation.

Invitation May Cause Controversy

BK1909131191 Hong Kong AFP in English 1226 GMT 18 Sep 91

[By Shah Alam]

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 19 (AFP)—Moderates in the Afghan resistance reacted favourably to a Soviet invitation for a mojahedin delegation to visit Moscow but hard-liners disagree with its modalities, mojahedin sources said Thursday.

An influential source in the fundamentalist Hezb-e-Eslami led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar said Moscow should have directly invited the "major" parties rather than addressing the Pakistan based government in exile.

Observers viewed the unprecedented invitation as a major development since the 1989 Soviet troop withdrawal, which ended a military intervention that claimed one million lives and made five million people refugees.

The mojahedin resistance includes moderate groups willing to accept a quick political settlement and harder-line groups still inclined to topple President Najibullah and establish Islamic rule in Kabul.

"The so-called mojahedin interim government is a decrepit, ineffective conglomeration," said a Hezb-e-Eslami source, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The Soviet Embassy here said the invitation had been extended to Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, president of the Pakistan-based Afghan Interim Government (AIG) and apparently favoured by the West.

An embassy spokesman said Mojaddedi had accepted the invitation and that it was up to the resistance to decide whom the delegation would include, but he noted that the Soviet Union was interested in a "broad representation."

The Hezb-e-Eslami, suspicious of both Moscow and Washington, said Mojaddedi heads a "tiny" group without any influence inside Afghanistan.

A spokesman for the moderate National Islamic Front of Afghanistan (NIFA), Azim Nasser Zia, said the invitation was a "sort of recognition" by Moscow that the mojahedin were the true representatives of the Afghan people.

All mojahedin groups have refused to talk with Najibollah, calling him a "puppet" and arguing that Moscow wielded decisive influence in Kabul.

But while the Soviet invitation may touch off a new row between radicals and moderates, observers here stressed the importance of this first official Soviet invitation to resistance leaders.

"We are hopeful a solution can emerge if our friends like Pakistan, Iran and Saudi Arabia extend promised support to us," Zia said, referring to recent developments.

NIFA, a partner in the six-party AIG, is believed to have links with former King Zahir Shah, whom it regards as the "best bet" in the quest for peace in this war-torn country.

Kabul said Wednesday it had restored the citizenship of the ex-monarch and his relatives.

NIFA chief, Mir Sayyed Hamid Gaylani, has attended with Mojaddedi a series of political talks including two recent meetings among Iran, Pakistan and mojahedin groups based in Islamabad and Tehran.

Hekmatyar, who denounces what he calls a "Soviet-American conspiracy" to steal ultimate mojahedin victory, boycotted the tripartite meetings.

Observers said two other dissidents—a Hezb-e-Eslami faction led by Yunis Khalis and the Ettehad-e-Eslami led by Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf—were likely to intensify factional bickering over mojahedin representation in Moscow.

A top Pakistani diplomat, Akram Zaki, told reporters the invitation came during the Tehran tripartite conference.

The conference focussed on the May 21 U.N. proposals calling for an intra-Afghan dialogue to set up an interim government in Kabul pending elections.

The talks are to resume in New York during the U.N. General Assembly session this month, Zaki said.

Acting AIG foreign minister Burhanuddin Rabbani, in an interview with AFP Monday, said the resistance would soon submit an "agreed list" of people for an interim administration.

Further Reportage on Intra-Afghan Peace Talks

Najibollah Says 'No One' Excluded

BK1809150891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1410 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Kabul, Sept 18 (AFP)—Afghan President Najibollah said Wednesday no one was excluded from taking part in proposed intra-Afghan peace dialogues and indicated that his participation would depend on the level of the meetings.

Speaking in an interview with AFP here, the president stated flatly that "no one can be excluded."

He was referring to a statement by Pakistani Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Mohammad Khan in Islamabad Monday.

In his statement, the foreign secretary said Kabul had indicated that if a dialogue went ahead, "Najibollah will not be there."

"Maybe he is Afghani ... not Pakistani, maybe he wants to come instead of me," the president quipped in English, before adding in a more serious vein:

"It is a decision (on who will take part in the talks) to be made by our party, according to the principles of democracy.

"In the past we have had meetings with the opposition in different forms. In some meetings—when delegations have come—I have met them myself.

"We have to see the level and the form of the delegations (proposed by the other side). Then we will also prepare ourselves for those negotiations.

"If they are going to form their delegations at a high level, we will reciprocate, if at the medium, then we (too will reciprocate)."

"But it is not the form but the content that is really important, that will lead to intra-Afghan understanding."

The president went on to stress that "at this moment in history," Afghans should put aside individual and group interests in the interests of the country so that "peace can be restored and bloodshed stopped."

"I think all Afghans should have a sense of responsibility at this time," he added.

Close aides of the president said after the interview that they believed the Pakistani foreign secretary may have been misled into making his statement.

The aides pointed out that in his independence day speech on August 18, the president had suggested that negotiations could begin on a "direct" level "without preconditions."

These negotiations, he said at the time, could take place between "representatives of the State of the Republic of Afghanistan and opposition (mojahedin) groups in the presence of an impartial third party" (generally taken to mean the United Nations).

The president made his comments against a background of frenzied activity following last week's announcement by the Soviet Union and the United States that they would cease supplies of arms to the warring Afghan sides at the end of this year.

The activities are based on a United Nations blueprint for peace in Afghanistan put forward by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar in May which depends on the warring sides being able to get together to agree on an interim mechanism to organise free elections in the country.

Diplomats here say the process is "extremely sensitive" because hardliners on both sides of the war, and because in some eyes any concessions would be seen as weakness.

In the interview, Najibollah also made light of reports that mojahedin groups backed by Pakistan were planning a final offensive on major cities in Afghanistan, including Kabul. He did not dismiss the reports outright, but said such "verbal attacks" in the past by such mojahedin leaders as Gulbuddin Hekmatyar had been discredited "in the international arena, in Afghanistan, and among his own rank and file."

Khalis Rejects Talks

BK1809141091 Lahore THE NATION (Islamabad THE NATION Supplement) in English 18 Sep 91 p 1

[Text] Peshawar—Mowlawi Mohammad Yunes Khales, Chief of his faction, Hezb-E Eslami-E Afghanistan, has rejected the proposal of mojahedin leaders talks with the representatives of the Afghan President, Dr Najibollah, and said that there are no advantages of talks with a representative or with the Kabul government.

Mowlawi Khales, who is considered the most radical amongst the Peshawar based Afghan leaders, in a press statement issued by the Afghan Islamic Press on Tuesday said that there was no difference between Dr Najibollah or his representative for mojahedin as their Jehad was not against of a person but against the ruling junta of Communists in Kabul. He said that talks with representative of Najib government was contrary to their legal status.

The Afghan leader further said that if their war had been against a person, then it would have stopped with removal of Babrak Karmal from presidentship. He said that every Communist was involved in killing of 1.6 millions Afghans and their compromise with these elements was impossible.

Mowlawi Mohammad Yunes Khales said that Afghan problem was near to its solution and hoped about Pakistan's support with mojahedin in the last phase. He

expressed the hope that mojahedin leadership would refuse to hold talks with representatives of the Najib government.

U.S. Accused of Shielding Najibollah

BK1809125491 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 18 Sep 91 p 5

[Text] Peshawar, Sept 17—Chief of Hezb-e Eslami-e Afghanistan, Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar has rejected the proposal of intra-Afghan dialogue under the auspices of United Nations at Switzerland, New Delhi, Islamabad or elsewhere in which even a single member of the Communist Party was included.

He observed that the proposal was aimed at giving an opportunity to the Kabul government for its inclusion in the dialogue which the Afghan resistance would never agree to.

This he said while addressing a gathering on the occasion of the "Qul" [Recitation of Koran in Commemoration of a Deceased Persons] of Shaheed [Martyr] Dr Mohammad Ismail at Shamshatu refugee camp here today. Dr Mohammad Ismail who was the Jehad fronts Amir of mojahedin in Pol-e Khomri and was killed during an ambush by unknown assassins at Baladuri area of Pol-e Khomri district on Sept 9.

Hekmatyar said that those demanding the holding of intra-Afghan dialogue at the above-mentioned places in fact wanted to give an edge to Kabul. Mojahedin, he added, will not accept any system or government in which a single communist was included. He made it clear that Hezb-e Eslami will oppose any unelected and un-Islamic system in Afghanistan.

Hekmatyar said that the United States wanted the survival of the Kabul regime. He said that desperate attempts were being made by Washington to make sure that the regime did not collapse at the hands of mojahedin. He told the audience that after the withdrawal of Russian troops from Afghanistan the Americans indulged themselves in purchasing the loyalties of some credulous commanders and tribal chieftains to form tribal and commanders Shuras in order to weaken the Jehad organisations.

He expressed his surprise over the current stand of the Iranian government on the Afghan issue and questioned as to why the pioneers of the Islamic revolution in Iran were silent over the current policy of Iran which according to him had been influenced by the prejudiced sectarian elements.

Citizenship Restored to Former King, Family

LD1809184291 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] The Presidency press office reports that a decree by Esteemed Najibollah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, on reinstatement of citizenship—repealing decree No. 5 dated 22 Jowza 1357 [12 June 1978] of the Revolutionary Council—has been issued:

In accordance with Paragraph 17, Article 75 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, I announce as void decree No. 5 dated 22 Jowza 1357 of the then Revolutionary Council. Its inconformity with the Republic of Afghanistan Constitution has been announced by the Council on the Constitution.

In consideration of the invalidation of the above decree, perceiving the unavoidable need for the national unity of all Afghans in realizing the humanitarian policy of national reconciliation and ending the war and bloodshed in Afghanistan, and by acceptance of the fact that all Afghans can take a worthy role in determining the destiny of and building their country, the following points have been approved in accordance with Paragraph 14, Article 75 of the Republic of Afghanistan Constitution:

Article 1: I approve the reinstatement of citizenship to the following individuals:

Mohammad Zahir, former King; Homayra, former Queen; Ahmad Shah, the son of ex-King Mohammad Zahir; Mohammad Nader, son of ex-King Mohammad Zahir; Mohammad Daod, son of ex-King Mohammad Zahir; Mirways Zahir, son of ex-King Mohammad Zahir; Mrs. Beghis, daughter of ex-King Mohammad Zahir; Mrs. Maryam Aziz Naim; Soltan Mahmud Ghazi; Abdol Wali, son of Shah Wali; Mrs. Khatol, wife of Ahmad Shah; Mrs. Layloma, wife of Mohammad Nader; Mrs. Fatema Daod, wife of Daod; Mrs. Qamar-os Seraj, wife of Shah Wali; [words indistinct] Mrs. Merghaleri Wali, wife of Wali Shah Wali; Mostafa Wali Shah Wali, son of Wali Shah Wali; Mrs. Aleya Mohmud Ghazi, wife of Soltan Mahmud Ghazi; Zalmay Mahmud Ghazi; Mrs. Turpaykay Mahmud Ghazi, daughter of Mohammad Daod; Mohammad Aziz Naim, son of Mohammad Naim; Tariq Aref, son of General Mohammad Aref, son-in-law of Abdol Wali and Homayra Wali.

Article 2: Relevant government organs are being commissioned to take the required measures.

Article 3: The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan is being commissioned to issue necessary instructions to the Republic's political agencies abroad regarding the issuing of passports to these individuals.

Article 4: This decree should be remitted to the Justice Ministry for publication in the Official Gazette.

[signed] Najibollah, president of Afghanistan.

Islamic Front Sees Role for King

BK1909080091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0746 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 19 (AFP)—An Afghan resistance faction said here Thursday the former King Zahir Shah had a "unique" position to help restore peace in Afghanistan.

His participation in the peace process would be a "very, very positive" move, said a spokesman of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan (NIFA), a rebel faction known to have close links with the royal family.

Azim Nasser Zia said the former king "has the stature and enjoys a unique position to play a very significant role in an interim period to bring some calm and stability to the country. Asked for his comments on Afghan President Najibollah's decree Wednesday, restoring the citizenship of Zahir Shah, the NIFA spokesman described it as a "mere political gimmick."

"Najibollah takes every opportunity to make such moves in a bid to make propaganda and gain some goodwill for himself," he said.

Practically, the Kabul announcement did not mean much, the spokesman said.

He did not comment about prospects of the former king's return to Afghanistan but emphasized that "right now he is one of the best bets," in the quest to end the 13-year old Afghan civil war.

The Afghan Government said late Wednesday that it had restored the citizenship of the ex-king, who has been living in Italy since the 1978 communist revolution in Afghanistan.

The decision also applied to the members of the royal family, the announcement said.

Intellectuals Announce 'First Democracy Movement'

BK1809121091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1129 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Kabul, Sept 18 (AFP)—A group of prominent Afghan intellectuals have announced the formation of the country's first democracy movement, dedicating themselves to achieving peace and preserving unity after 13 years of war.

The announcement of the formation of the 14-member Movement for the Freedom, Democracy and Unity of Afghanistan was made in telephone calls Tuesday by founding member Ghulam Sakhi Ghairat to foreign journalists here.

National television and radio issued no announcement, nor was it clear whether the government of President Najibollah had sanctioned the movement's creation, which comes almost one month after the failed hardline coup in Moscow.

Ghairat, a Soviet-trained architect and editor of banned bi-weekly newspaper "AZADI," Freedom, resigned his membership of the small leftist party Saza in December.

He told AFP after his August 26 release from three weeks imprisonment that he felt he would not have been freed if the Soviet coup had succeeded.

At the time of his arrest, several longtime Kabul residents watching the hardline versus liberal battle in Moscow speculated that he was counting on latter faction's victory and even suggested that he may have been supported by them.

He said Tuesday that none of the group's 14 founding members belonged to President Najibollah's Watan (Homeland) Party.

Several of those named as members, including poet Mohammad Siddique Ruhi, have confirmed their participation.

Another member, Rahnaward Zaryab, the U.S.-educated leading short story writer and head of the Afghan literary association, campaigned for Ghairat's release from jail.

The group's platform says democracy is the only way for Afghans to achieve peace, calls for the U.N. Security Council to order an immediate halt to arms supplies to the country and, most controversially, demands the abolition of two key ministries associated with suppression under the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

The Ministry of State Security, it said, should be abolished, and the Interior Ministry put under the Ministry of Defence.

In calling for an immediate halt to arms supplies from foreign powers, the group appeared to be reflecting widespread fears here that Moscow and the United States would take advantage of the three months to January of next year to step up weapon deliveries to both sides.

Last Friday U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and his Soviet counterpart Boris Pankin announced in Moscow that they had agreed to halt arms supplies to Najibollah's regime here and to the mojahedin fighting to dislodge him.

The group also urged Afghans to remember that the basic reason for the devastating war that has torn the country apart and cost more than one million lives and forced another five million into exile had been the Soviet occupation of the country since December 1979.

Afghans should also remember that the fight of those in the mojahedin been against tyranny, and the birth of the leftist struggle in Afghanistan, before the Soviet invasion, had also been against dictatorship, the manifesto said.

Through democracy, using the charter of human rights as a basis, peace could be achieved, it added.

Officials from the Watan Party were not available for comment on the founding of the movement, though party Vice President Najmuddin Kawyani told foreign journalists Tuesday afternoon, before the founding of movement was announced, that democracy was essential in Afghanistan to ensure a stable future.

"We take into consideration the rights of the nationalists ... democracy is needed here," Kawyani said. Observers here noted that announcement of the democracy movement was made on the same day as the arrival here on a five-day visit of the United Nations Special Reporter on Human Rights in Afghanistan, Felix Armacora.

Movement May Not Register

BK1909025891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0248 GMT 19 Sep 91

[By Kate Webb]

[Text] Kabul, Sept 19 (AFP)—Afghanistan's first democracy movement has said it may not register with the government of President Najibollah and has stressed its independence from any faction in the country's bitter 13-year-long war.

The tiny movement, which announced its formation Tuesday and held its first press conference in a small room above a local restaurant here Wednesday, consists of 12 poets and academics, one businessman and one physician.

A restaurant chair was propped against the room's lockless door as the 14 members, whose ages range from 25 to their late 60s, told a handful of Soviet and Western reporters that they considered all parties set up under the Kabul administration as clones of its ruling Watan (Homeland) Party.

They said their movement was wedded to no political figure nor ideology, but dedicated to the search for peace and committed to the ideal democracy.

"We might become a party later," said a spokesmen, "but we have not made a decision on whether to try to register, but now we represent a forum for the silent majority."

When asked how they thought writers and poets could exert any influence in a country bristling with guns, Mohammad Asaf Shah replied, "Not all of the five and half million refugees have guns, not all the men in the streets have guns. When the security has finished searching the people's houses, there is not even a small knife left."

"We want to give the people a forum. We have talked to hundreds and they agree with us. We feel we can provide a voice," he added.

As to whether they were emboldened by the failure of the hardline coup in Moscow last month, one of the spokesmen said the group had been discussing their move "for a long time."

They said they had no president and no newspaper, stressing that in their first declaration they had made a point of excluding any member of the ruling Watan Party from the group's membership.

"As you can see we are all of differing opinions," said Ghafur Puya Fariabi, a writer, as the members argued about whether former King Zaher Shah—now living in exile in Italy—could play a major role if he returned to Afghanistan.

"We as a group hold no one as a candidate, but we are clear that people must be allowed to choose," he said.

The Afghan Government announced Wednesday that it had restored the king's citizenship—stripped from him after the communist revolution in 1978—and had instructed foreign missions to issue his family with passports.

Before the group held its press conference, Najibollah said in his first comment on the movement's formation that when it registered he would see whether it complied with all the regulations of the state and the Constitution.

However, he appeared to rule out one of the movement's main demands, which is for the abolition of the Ministry of State Security, which President Najibollah formerly headed, and the incorporation of the Ministry of Interior into the armed forces.

The president said that individuals could not move against institutions in a way that was outside the framework of the Constitution or it would lead to "disarray and disorder."

At the press conference, one of the movement's more outspoken members, Ghulam Sak Ghairat, said the group's demand was based on its analysis of the current Afghan situation.

"Certain elements, most notably the Soviet occupation, brought tragedy to Afghanistan and its people and it—the Ministry of State Security or "Khad" as the feared secret police are known—is one of those elements," he said.

"It is only a demand," Ghairat said adding, "What we see as more important for the future is that the armed forces of the country be united, neutral and national. Their job is to defend the independence of Afghanistan. Now they are divided into three."

"It is a state inside a state," said Ghairat, an editor who only last month was released from three weeks' imprisonment for trying to publish an article containing a speech by a fundamentalist leader of the mojahedin, which is fighting to overthrow the Kabul government.

Observers and diplomats here noted that the group chose to make its move Tuesday, the day the U.N. reporter for human rights in Afghanistan, Felix Ermacora, arrived in the city for a five-day visit.

They also said the movement, which has wide contacts with Afghan intellectuals abroad, had acted more boldly than the small National Salvation Society, a group of neutral royalists which has refrained from registering with the government since it was set up two years ago.

"In making this demand (the abolition of Khad), this group is going far beyond the Salvation people," said one diplomat, who warned that if Ghairat kept speaking in that way he may end up in jail again.

Bangladesh

Official Results of 15 Sep Referendum Announced

BK1809160491 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] The Election Commission has published the official results of the referendum on the Constitution 12th Amendment Bill. The number of yes votes were 1 crore 83 lakh 8,377. The percentage was 84.38. The total number of no votes were 33 lakh 90,062, the percentage of which was 15.62.

India

Rao Surveys Ties With Neighbors, World Scene

BK1809161491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] The prime minister says Pakistan has failed to keep up its promise of showing definite improvement at the ground level in bilateral relations. Intervening in the special discussion on the international situation in the Lok Sabha today, Mr. Narasimha Rao said Pakistan should be motivated by the changes in the global scene and reciprocate India's efforts for better relations. Unless this happens, the present uncertainty in India-Pakistan relations will continue.

During his half an hour long intervention, Mr. Narasimha Rao covered the entire gamut of India's foreign policy, including its relations with neighbors and the Soviet Union. He said the stand of various political parties on foreign policy is not different and the government is taking initiatives which will show positive results in the coming months.

Mr. Narasimha disclosed that India is fairly clear that Bangladesh is fuelling terrorism in the northeast despite denials by Dhaka. He said this and the Chakma [Bangladesh tribal refugees] problem will have to be taken up with that country. He informed the members that the Bangladesh prime minister will be visiting India soon which, he hoped, will give a new impetus to economic cooperation between the two countries.

Turning to relations with the Soviet union, the prime minister said he does not foresee any disruption in India's economic and other relations despite the changes in that country. He said the present situation in the Soviet Union is only a passing phase.

The prime minister said India will continue to play constructive role in the developing situation in Burma, though the military government there is bitter about it. He said after the democratic government took over in Nepal, the negotiations on harnessing of a common river, which were bogged down earlier, have gained momentum.

About Sri Lanka, Mr. Narasimha Rao said the spillover of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] problem and the refugee burden is becoming more and more difficult and needs to be sorted out.

On West Asia, the prime minister said there is no change in India's stand and it is committed to an international conference to bring peace in the region.

Reiterating the country's position on disarmament and nonalignment, the prime minister said India is striving for expansion of the Security Council.

He said New Delhi has been assured of an entry into the European market, but our economic performance must improve.

Underlining India's commitment to SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation], he said the regional grouping is making some forward movement in economic cooperation, but Pakistan has been resisting it.

Police Officers Posted on Bangladesh Border

BK1909102491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] In South Tripura District, senior police officers with additional reinforcement have been posted at (Nabichira) village near (Gobindbai) on the India-Bangladesh border. This follows the killing of seven insurgents by villagers. According to official sources in Agartala, Mr. (Jamatia), who is acting as the chief minister, told newsmen that the situation is under control and no untoward incident has been reported from the area.

Meanwhile, the leader of the opposition, Mr. Nipen Chakrabarty, has claimed that the seven persons killed belong to the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist].

U.S. 'Positive Stand' on Kashmir Appreciated

BK1809132891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] India-Pakistan talks at the foreign secretary level are to be held by the end of next month. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardu Faleiro, told the Lok Sabha today that the delay is due to Pakistan's failure to hold preliminary discussion on issues like Tulbul project for a secretary talks to become more purposeful. Moving a motion on the international situation, he said Pakistan has been clearly told that it must translate into action its intentions for better ties. It must stop abetment of terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir and internationalization of the Kashmir problem.

The minister appreciated the positive stand of the United States on Kashmir.

Mr. Faleiro told the house that the transitory phase in Moscow has created some dislocation in India-Soviet economic relations. He hoped that the position will be stabilized after the union treaty is signed there and added that India looks forward to improved relations with the Soviet union and various republics.

Intervening in the special discussion, the prime minister said Pakistan should be motivated by the changes in the global scene and reciprocate India's intentions for better relations. Unless this happens, the present uncertainty in India-Pakistan relations will continue and we have to live with it.

Seven Militants Killed, 39 Arrested in Kashmir

BK1809161091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] The Rajya Sabha is now discussing the Jammu and Kashmir budget for 1991-92. Initiating the debate, Maulana Obaidallah Khan Azmi, Janata Dal, stressed the need for strengthening the hands of democratic forces and restoration of a popular government in Jammu and Kashmir. Members said the Kashmir problem can be solved only through accelerated economic development of the state.

Meanwhile, seven militants were killed and 39 arrested during a week-long cordon and search operation in the northwest of Wular Lake in the state. An official spokesman said in New Delhi that 16 of those arrested had just returned from Pakistan after receiving training. He said one officer was killed and four jawans [soldiers] were injured in the operation. The spokesman said that there was no civilian casualty, as reported in a section of the press. He said such rumors were spread to pressure the security forces to wind up the operation.

ULFA Militants Kill Another Hostage in Assam

BK1909095091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] The ULFA [United Liberation Front Of Assam] militants have killed one of the seven hostages held by them. PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA] quoting official reports in Guwahati said that the killed hostage was Mr. B.P. Srivastav, an ONGC [OIL and Natural Gas Commission] engineer whose body was recovered from (Senchua) village in the Sibsagar District of Upper Assam early this morning. According to a report, the security forces had earlier surrounded the village and there was exchange of fire with ULFA militants. Detail of casualty is not immediately known. The militants killed Mr. Srivastav before trying to a escape.

According to one report, six ULFA extremists have been nabbed. Mr. Srivastav is the third victim who lost his life in ULFA captivity. Earlier, another two of the ONGC engineer T.S. Raju and the Russian mining engineer (Sergev Kripchenko).

Earthquake Rocks Assam Area; No Damage Reported

BK1909085091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] An earthquake of moderate intensity rocked Guwahati and some adjoining areas in Assam around 1000 today. A rumbling sound followed the tremor, which lasted for seven seconds rattling doors and windows, forced panic-striken people out of their houses for safety. Preliminary reports received said that there was no causualty or damage to property.

President Rule Extended; Punjab Elections 15 Feb

BK1809130491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Elections in Punjab are to be held before the 15th of February next. Announcing this in the Lok Sabha today, the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, said the government remains committed to holding of elections in the state and if the situation improves, polls will be conducted even earlier. He was replying to the debate on the statutory resolution seeking extension of president's rule in Punjab for another six months from the 11th of November. The resolution has been approved by both houses of parliament.

In the Rajya Sabha, most of the opposition members, barring the CPI-M [Communist Party of India—Marxist] and the Akali Dal, walked out in protest against the government not announcing a firm date of elections in the state. The lone Akali Dal member, however, opposed the resolution.

In the Lok Sabha, opposition members pressed for a division and the resolution was adopted by 148 members voting in favor and 23 against.

The home minister said the government is equally keen to restore a democratic set up in Punjab as most political parties, including the Akali Dal, are in favor of an elected government. He strongly refuted the allegation that the Congress-I was politically motivated in canceling elections in the state. Mr. Chavan said the center will have a dialogue with both Punjab and Haryana to reach an amicable solution on the implementation of the Rajiv-Longowal accord.

Replying to the debate in the Rajya Sabha, the minister of state for home, Mr. M.M. Jacob, said the government is prepared to talk even to the militants if they abjure violence and abide by the constitution. He said the task of normalizing the situation in Punjab is a foremost priority and sought cooperation from all political parties. The minister said that fencing along 356 km border with Pakistan has been completed out of the total of 554 km.

Militants Kidnap Head Priest's Son in Punjab

BK1909035291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] In Punjab, the son of the former chief of the Akal Takht [Sikhdom's highest seat located at Punjab's Golden Temple] has been kidnapped, while one militant has been killed in an encounter since yesterday. According to an official spokesman, some militants stopped the vehicle of Mr. Manmohan Singh, the executive officer of Tarn Taran municipality, and kidnapped him along with another person yesterday afternoon. Mr. Manmohan Singh is the son of the former Jathedar [priest] of Akal Takht, Giani Kirpal Singh.

Sri Lankan Tamil Refugee Camps To Close Down

BK1909041191 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] The Tamil Nadu government has decided to close down the Sri Lankan Tamil Refugee Camps which are situated in the coastal areas of the state. The state commissioner for rehabilitation of refugees after visiting the camps around (Nagapattinal) said this has been done because of security reasons.

Iran

Primakov News Conference on Official Talks

LD1809145291 Tehran IRNA in English 1315 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 18, IRNA—A senior Soviet envoy, saying Iraq was still in a "state of confrontation and dispute" with some of its neighbours, Wednesday underlined the "full and proper enforcement" of U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Yevgeniy Primakov, who arrived here Tuesday with a message from President Mikhail Gorbachev for President Ali-Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, said he had discussed with Iranian officials Tehran-Moscow ties in general with regards to recent developments in the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union is ready to maintain and expand its economic cooperation with the Islamic Republic, Primakov told a press conference. He said the aim of his visits to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Iran was to inform the leaders of those countries of events in the Soviet Union following the abortive coup last month.

Asked whether the Soviets would recognize the independence of Muslim-populated republics in the Soviet Union in case they declared themselves so, Primakov did not give any direct answer, but replied that "none of the Muslim Republics has ever wanted to break away from the Soviet Union." However, he defended the breakaway of the three Baltic republics of Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia from the Soviet Union, and said the "recognition of their independence should not be interpreted as a concession to the West."

On the Zionist regime's insistence for resumption of Soviet-Israel ties as a precondition for Soviet presence in any Middle East talks, Primakov said the Soviet Union would not bow to such pressure. The Soviet envoy said he didn't think Israel had adopted such a stance.

Asked to comment on the 10 year U.S.-Kuwait security accord, he said such an accord would not pose any danger to the Soviet Union. Turning to Afghanistan, Primakov termed the Moscow-Washington agreement to cut arms supply to parties to conflict as of next January as a "positive" step.

"We are now closer than ever before to the settlement of the Afghan issue. Therefore, other countries should refrain from suppling arms to Afghanistan," he added.

On the so-called Middle East peace conference and the opposition of the Palestinian delegation to take part in it, Primakov thought that a solution was possible in the near future to the question as to which Palestinian groups should be represented at the conference.

"The Middle East 'peace' conference should convene on time though there are visible and invisible obstacles particularly Israel's position in the way of holding the conference," he said.

Questioned if the Soviet Union's withrawal of troops from Cuba did not mean giving concessions to the U.S., he replied that recalling of Soviet advisors from Cuba was part of Moscow-Washington negotiations, while the other part rests with the U.S. reciprocate similar measures, in order to bring stability to the region.

Primakov, Economics Minister Meet

LD1809151491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Mr. Primakov, Soviet President Gorbachev's envoy, currently visiting Iran, met and conferred with Mr. Nurbakhsh, the minister of economic and financial affairs.

The two parties reviewed the trend of the economic and commercial ties between the two countries during the meeting. They discussed the cancellation of the payment clearing system and its replacement with a hard currency system, the agreement on liquid gas exports, the implementation of projects undertaken by the Soviet Union in Iran, and the expansion of the Islamic Republic of Iran's exports to the Soviet Union.

Primakov, Javadi-Amoli Meet

NC1909090091 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Yevgeniy Primakov, special Soviet president envoy visiting our country, met with Ayatollah Javadi-Amoli in Qom yesterday to convey a Gorbachev's message. Ayatollah Javadi-Amoli lead our country's delegation conveying the imam of the ummah message to the Soviet president.

Our correspondent reports that during the meeting, which was attended by the general director of East European Affairs of the Foreign Ministry and by the Soviet and Iranian ambassadors, Mr. Primakov described the failed Soviet coup as a victory of the people. He praised his eminence Imam Khomeyni, founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and said: Relations between Iran and the Soviet Union have expanded in all fields following Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to the Soviet Union.

Ayatollah Javadi-Amoli discussed the impact of the Islamic Revolution in Iran's victory on the awakening of nations and called for all limitations preventing Soviet Muslims from carrying out their religious ceremonies to be lifted.

Velayati Departs for UN General Assembly

NC1909063891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati left for New York last night at the head of a delegation that will participate in the UN General Assembly. During the session, Velayati will explain the Islamic Republic of Iran's views on world developments.

Foreign Ministry sources say that during the visit Velayati will meet with the foreign ministers of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council. Velayati will also meet with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar and discuss the follow-up of the implementation of the remaining paragraphs of Resolution 598.

Report on Khamene'i Speech to IRGC Commanders

NC1909074991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution and commander-in-chief, met with commanders of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] yesterday afternoon. Khamene'i said that we are at a turning point and an important phase in history, and he cited the Holy Koran in describing the mission of the Islamic Revolution and of the standard-bearers of justice as the salvation of neglected humanity and the guides to salvation and true perfection.

At the meeting, held at the end of the fourth large assembly of IRGC commanders and officials, the commander-in-chief said steadfastness, alertness, resistance, and refraining from egoism were the elements needed for advancing against the common front of blasphemy and arrogance, adding: Today the world powers have malicious desires and the most dangerous weapons. The movement of history toward human spirituality proves that the world cannot remain ignorant, he added, noting that at this turning point in history we will achieve our lofty objectives.

The leader of the Islamic Revolution then emphasized the need to consolidate the IRGC, saying: The IRGC is a collection of the most pious and revolutionary elements who have treaded the most difficult arenas. The IRGC should be strengthened in the education, equipment, organization, and discipline areas and continue to be at the peak of spirituality to consolidate the bond between their hearts and God. This is because what took place in Iran showed that the largest powers—America, NATO, and regional reaction—are unable to defeat a nation which has gained its strength from spirituality and its belief in Islam and the imam with their money, equipment, military tactics, and satellite information .

Khamene'i then stressed the need to preserve piety and militarization by observing ritual. He said that the IRGC needs to acquire military knowledge, adding: The IRGC should have its place and carry out its important responsibility in militarily defending the revolution and ensuring whatever is necessary to carry out this responsibility with clear-sightedness, political pride, awareness of time and place, and correct political analysis of domestic and foreign events.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i described the IRGC as part of the large unit of armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, stressing the need to preserve the Army and the IRGC as two military organizations with separate responsibilities. He added: Attention need to be paid to observing organizational values inside the IRGC, and the group needs to take praise and punishment seriously.

In conclusion, the commander-in-chief mentioned the destruction of the empire of the East and the emergence of American imperialism as an unrivalled superpower, noting: I sincerely and strongly believe that if America mobilizes all its potential and forces to strike at the Islamic Revolution, once again it will not be able to do a damn thing. The weak points of these flimsy powerful people are obvious and societal differences will gradually become more obvious. This is a time when the sound of the defeat of the empire of money and power can be heard from afar.

Before Khamene'i's remarks, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Mohammadi-'Eraqi, representative of the supreme jurisconsult in the IRGC, reported on the fourth large assembly of IRGC commanders and officers

and stressed the readiness of the IRGC forces to carry out the orders of the revolution's leader and the missions assigned to it.

Lebanon's Foreign Minister on Finding Hostages

LD1809153491 Tehran IRNA in English 1452 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 18, IRNA—Lebanon's Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz on Wednesday promised to urge Lebanese judicial and security officials to try to locate Iranian hostages, as soon as he stepped in Beirut.

Talking to reporters upon his departure for Beirut at the end of his 3-day official visit, Buwayz said during his talks in Tehran "important" steps were taken to promote mutual ties and solve the issue of the four Iranians kidnapped by the pro-Western Phalangists in Beirut way back in 1982.

The four, including Iran's charge d'affaires to Beirut, Seyyed Mohsen Musavi, are the longest held hostages.

Buwayz said he had also submitted President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani a message from his Lebanese counterpart Ilyas Hirawi.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who saw off his Lebanese counterpart, said the aim of Buwayz' visit to Tehran was to broaden and consolidate Tehran-Beirut ties.

Velayati pledged Iran's readiness to contribute to Lebanon's reconstruction and to help it liberate the occupied southern parts from Zionist troops.

Asked about the possibility of release of a British detainee in Lebanon within the next few days, Velayati responded "The U.N. secretary-general is pursuing the issue and we are cooperating with him in this respect." He expressed hope that all those who, somehow or other, can prove to be effective in this matter, would lend their efforts.

'Monafeqin' Incident in France Protested

LD1809225691 Tehran IRNA in English 1618 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 17, IRNA—The Foreign [Ministry] today summoned French Ambassador Hubert Colin de Verdiere, and protested the apparent shortcomings of the French police to prevent elements of the monafeqin (hypocrites) grouplet from insulting the Iranian delegation in Strasbourg.

The Iranian parliamentary delegation currently in Strasbourg at the invitation of the European Parliament was insulted by outlaws of the Monafeqin Khalq organisation in that city on Monday.

Director of West European affairs at the Foreign ministry Mohammad Musavi, while protesting to de Verdiere elaborated on the futile moves of counter-revolutionaries abroad, and demanded vigilance on the part of French officials and police against the "inhuman behavior" of these grouplets.

"Such terrorist acts (against Iran) on French soil would have a negative impact on mutual relations," Musavi warned. De Verdiere in reply criticised the Strasbourg incident as "disgusting", and said the French Government does not aprove it. He requested Musavi to convey the regret of the French Government to the Iranian parliament.

Hostage Release Talks With Israel in Jul Denied

LD1709124591 Tehran IRNA in English 1130 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Tehran, Sep. 17, IRNA—Iran today categorically dismissed as "baseless and pure lie" a claim by the London-based Arabic daily 'AL-HAYAT' that Iranian officials had covert meetings with Turkish and Zionist officials in Istanbul late last July to arrange the release of hostages.

An informed source at the Foreign Ministry said such allegations raised by the agents of the Zionist regime were aimed at tarnishing the image of the Islamic revolution.

Pakistan

Unknown Assailants Bomb Karachi TV Station

BK1909061991 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 19 Sep 91 p 5

[Text] Karachi, Sept 18—Panic and tension gripped the Sindh capital when unknown armed men hurled bombs at the Karachi Television Station [KTV] and a traffic kiosk on main NIPA [National Institute for Public Administration] roundabout on Wednesday morning.

These unknown armed men also went on firing spree in different parts of the metropolis and killed a hawker near Tin Hatti.

The explosive material hurled at both the places was locally manufactured and did not cause any major damage.

According to details the unknown persons travelling on motorcycles hurled explosive material at the outer boundary wall of the KTV which exploded with a big bang.

Similarly, four youngsters came on two motorcycles at the NIPA traffic kiosk and threw bombs.

One of the bombs hit the kiosk while the other exploded on the main road. The unknown armed men who later

indulged in indiscriminate firing escaped before the police could reach the place of incident.

The police also found a kerosene bottle, a match box and some fired cartridges from near the traffic kiosk.

In yet another incident, unknown armed men hurled a bomb on main Tin Hatti bridge but fortunately it did not explode. They later resorted to indiscriminate firing which resulted in the death of a hawker.

The armed men also opened fire in different parts of the metropolis which caused panic and tension amongst the people.

The city police has been put on alert following the sudden incidents of bomb blasts and firing which one person was killed.

Intensive patrolling has been resumed in the sensitive parts in order to thwart any attempts to create any law and order problem in the sensitive Sindh capital.

Minister—Pakistan To Raise Kashmir Issue at UN

BK1809162391 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Speaking to newsmen in Islamabad today, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Siddiq Kanju said Pakistan will raise the Kashmir issue at the current session of the UN General Assembly and will make efforts to muster international support to bring pressure on India to end the gross human rights violations in the occupied valley. Siddiq Kanju will lead the Pakistan delegation at the General Assembly session. He said Pakistan's stand on the Kashmir issue is very clear and it wants the issue to be resolved according to UN resolutions and Simla accords. In reply to a question, the minister of state said all the parliamentary delegations visiting foreign countries and other government officials respresenting Pakistan at various international fora will give priority to the Kashmir issue.

In reply to another question on the Afghanistan issue, he said Pakistan is interested in a consummate and overall settlement of the issue that will help find a political solution to facilitate the return of 3 million Afghan refugees staying in Pakistan.

According to ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, Pakistan will submit draft resolutions on Afghanistan, on setting up a nuclear weapon-free zone in South Asia, and on giving legal guarantee to nonnuclear countries against nuclear attacks and the threat of such attacks.

Concern Expressed at Massacre in Occupied Kashmir

BK1809151791 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1400 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Pakistan expressed distress, anguish, and profound concern over reports of another act of massacre of Muslims committed by the Indian occupation forces in (Malipur) village of occupied Kashmir. In a statement in Islambad today, a foreign office spokesman said according to Indian press reports, Indian troops pursued (?even) innocent civilians, including women and children, and brutally killed them by resorting to indiscriminate firing on them. It is reported that in this grievious incident, 10 persons were martyred. It is understood that the actual number of those killed may be much more than this.

Sri Lanka

Premadasa Impeachment Situation Continues

Attorney General's Communique

BK1809125091 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] A communique from the presidential secretariat says that the attorney general has said that if the resolution to remove the president from office was not duly brought before parliament, then it has lapsed. It will be recalled that in view of communication by the speaker, the powers of the president under the Constitution in respect of parliament has been restricted. As a result of the action taken by the speaker, the president decided to obtain the advice of the attorney general as to the correct legal position. The advice sought by the president was in regard to the exercise of his own powers granted to him under the Constitution.

In the speaker's letter of 28 of August 1991, he had stated that he had entertained the resolution complying with the requirements of the subparagraphs 1 and B of paragraph 2 of Article 38 of the Constitution and drawn the president's attention to Article 70 (1), proviso C of the Constitution which prevents the president from exercising some of his powers once the speaker has entertained such a resolution. However, even as late as 11th of September 1991, no notice of resolution had been entered in the order book or any order paper of the parliament. In the meanwhile, the president had prorogued parliament with effect from the 30th of August 1991. These facts were communicated to the attorney general for his advice as to whether the president was or was not in a position to exercise these powers granted to him under the Constitution.

The attorney general was of the opinion that unless the resolution had reached the state of being duly brought before parliament as set out in Article 74, it would lapse with the prorogation of parliament. As the Constitution cannot be construed to permit the president to do indirectly that which he cannot do directly, the stage contemplated in Article 70 1C of the Constitution should in the least be the same as in Article 74, namely of having been duly brought before parliament. The position taken up by the speaker that the resolution to remove the president from office has been duly entertained was referred to the attorney general for his observation and advice.

The attorney general has pointed out that the speaker can only be said to have entertained a resolution so as to attract the provisions of Article 71 (1) C of the Constitution only if he had taken an officially ascertainable [word indistinct] act. This is necessarily so as it involves legal consequences in terms of the Constitution. The attorney general by way of further clarification has said that a resolution received by the speaker can be said to have been entertained only after he has complied with the relevant provisions of the Constitution or standing orders of parliament and taken the step to causing it to be duly brought before parliament. In this context, the word entertain found in Article 70 (1) C of the Constitution refers to an official [word indistinct] act done at an ascertainable time and date and cannot refer merely to the formulation of an opinion on the part of the speaker. The attorney general's advice on the main question, incidentally, confirms that this resolution, not having been duly brought before parliament at the time of the prorogation of parliament, cannot be proceeded with during the next session. However, it should be noted that this was not the advice which was tendered by the attorney general to the speaker, but to the president.

Parliament Dissolution Ruled Out

BK1809114291 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] The president has made it clear that parliament will not be dissolved. He is due to present a four-year program to speed up development during a meeting of the government parliamentary group this afternoon. Speaking to secretaries of ministries on their role in development and production efforts last evening, the president said the details of the four-year development to be implemented countrywide during the period 1991-95 will be placed before the government parliamentary group this afternoon. The president said that the dissolution of parliament would be an obstacle to the speedy implementation of such development activities. He stressed that, for this reason and as parliament has to approve a motion to extend monthly the prevailing emergency regulations, it was in no way possible to dissolve the parliament.

The president further pointed out that to protect people and to ensure peace in the country, parliament will not be dissolved. He recalled that the people once again resolutely endorsed the government's policy during elections to provincial councils last May and therefore no need arises for election. He added that what was needed today is to establish peace in the northeast and to overcome the uncertainties which followed the period of terror and to safeguard the peace and security brought about by sacrifice. This is essential to the speeding up of development and to eliminate the sufferings of the people.

Two More Ministers Resign

BK1909040091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] In Sri Lanka, two more ministers have resigned from Mr. Premadasa's council of ministers. They are Mr. Ravindra Samaraweera and Mr. Ariyaratne Jayuatilleke. With this, the number of ministers resigned since the beginning of the current political crisis has gone up to six. The two ministers have resigned in protest against the alleged supply of arms and ammunition to the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] by the present government.

Legislators Express Dismay at Drama

BK1909120591 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] The government parliamentary group at its meeting yesterday examined in detail the present position of the notice of resolution to remove the president from office. The group also took note of the attorney general's advice to the president that in view of the prorogation of parliament, the notice of resolution cannot be proceeded with at the next session since it had not been duly brought before parliament at the time of prorogation. The group after having carefully considered all the relevant facts was unanimous in the view that the continuance of this issue without being resolved is causing unjust and irreparable damage to the office of the president and the country.

The group also expressed its deep shock at the following facts that have come to light since the presentation of a memorandum by 116 members in person to the speaker on the 3d of this month. Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali in press interviews and a speech made at (Ithurupaya) after he relinquished ministerial office had stated that he signed the notice of resolution to remove the president after he had resigned from the Cabinet of Ministers on 30 August, 1991. This disclosure reveals the shocking state of affairs, which clearly shows that the collection of signatures has been a continuing drama even after the speaker had informed the president on 28 August 1991 of his entertainment of the notice of resolution. The subscription of signatures after the entertainment of the notice of resolution is grossly unconstitutional, illegal, and improper. The group further noted that in their claims filed in the district court of Colombo on the 5th of September, certain members of parliament stated that they had signed separate, although similar, notices of resolution under Article 38 (2) of the Constitution. This, apart from showing that the notice of resolution was not in conformity with Article 38 (2) of the Constitution, established that a conspiracy was in operation to obtain signatures to remove the president from office and lend support to the representation made by some members of parliament of both the government and the opposition that their signatures have been obtained by misrepresentation and deceit.

The government group declared its utter dismay and disgust in learning that a personality whose office demands the strictest adherence to the principles of neutrality and justice in the conduct of his duties and functions had invited a member of the opposition to his residence and misled him into signing the notice of resolution to remove the president from office. These facts have been disclosed in an affidavit (?sworn) by the member concerned. The resolution was moved by the minister of public administration, provincial councils, and home affairs, Festus Perera; and seconded by the minister of environment, and minister of state for policy planning and implementation, Dr. Vimal Wickremasinghe.

The government parliamentary group welcomed the decision of the International Monetary Fund to provide Sri Lanka with $455 million as financing facility to expedite the process of the development of the country and thanked the IMF for this generous gesture. The group noted with appreciation that this facility will help Sri Lanka to work toward the achievement of a 6 percent or more annual economic growth and that this provision will be used for the components that are required to ensure that the process of development is not hampered or slowed down for want of foreign exchange for purchase of necessary equipment, machinery, and raw materials. The government parliamentary group approved the appointment of a committee of ministers and MP's to work out schemes to utilize the massive assistance granted by the IMF. The president explained that they proposed to appoint a committee each for the key development ministries utilizing this aid.